■ World / A10

Fil-Am general: Leadership failure behind abuse

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■ News/ A2

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Tanong ng Bayan / A18

Sa mata ng Namfrel, kapanipaniwala nga ba?

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FPJ/ A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

4 Pinoys killed in Iraq mortar attack, says GMA

By Juliet L. Javellana and Jerome Aning

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4 PINOYS/ A4

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph   Thursday, May 13, 2004 ★★★ 44 pages / 4 sections / vol. 19 / no. 155   P18   website: www.inq7.net

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By Blanche S. Rivera

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By Philip C. Tubeza, Carlito Pablo and Blanche S. Rivera

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NAMFREL/ A9

Bomb kills girl in Jolo; co-ed shot dead in Marawi

By the PDI Mindanao and Northern Luzon Bureaus

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The violent incidents occurred the past two days and raised to 121 the number of people killed in the country's deadliest election campaign in the decades.

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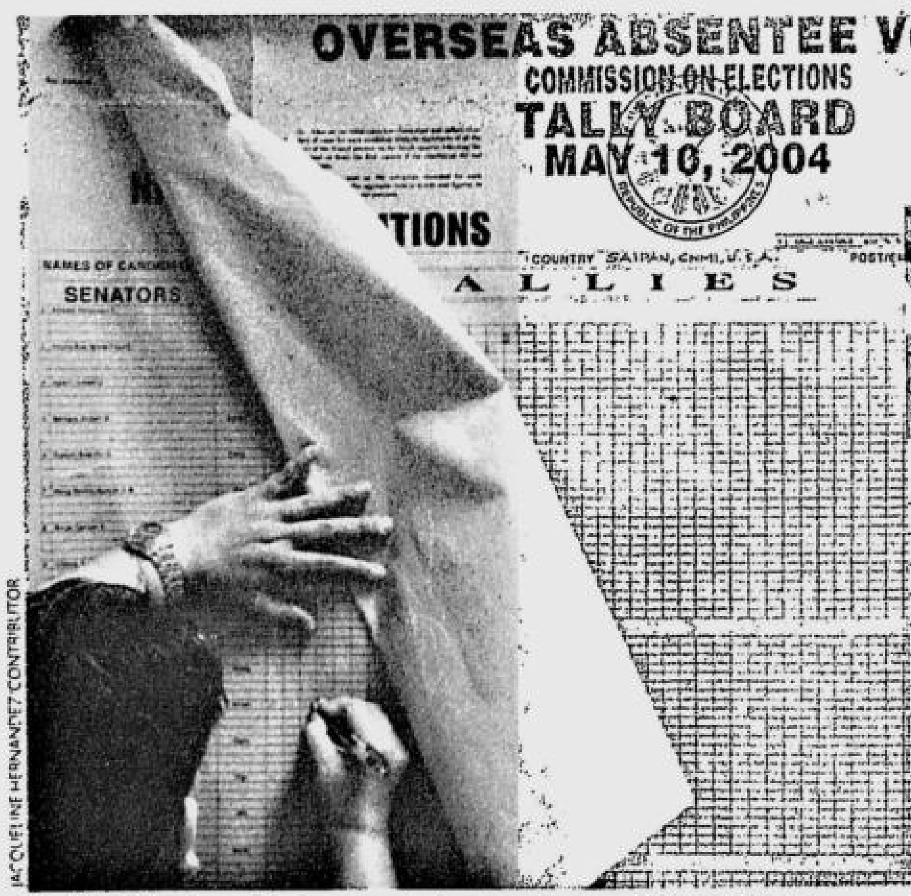
BOMB KILLS/ A4



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ CONTRIBUTOR

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ELEKSYON 2004

QUICK COUNT (PARTIAL, UNOFFICIAL)

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4	Villanueva, Eduardo C.	65,264
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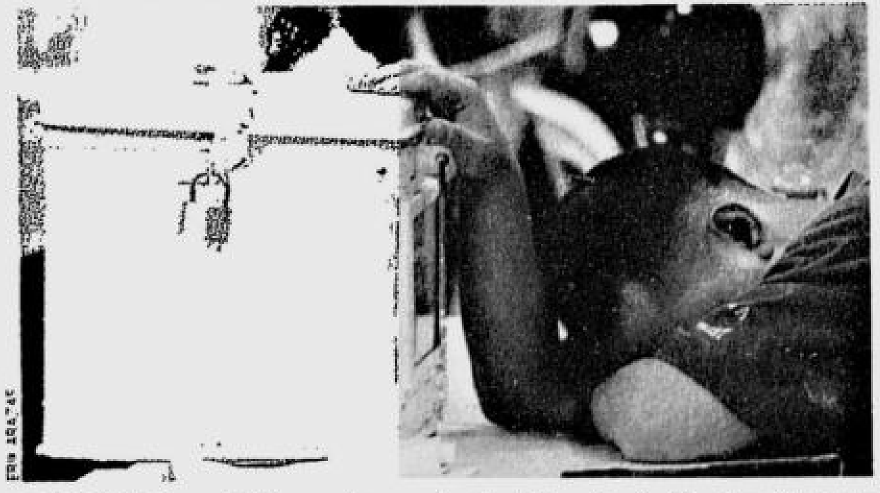

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One of the teachers, Adelia Gregorio, principal of the Quezon National High School in Bulan texted the Department of Education's election task force hotline because she could think of no one else to ask for help.

Ann Lopez, the duty officer who spoke with Gregorio, said she alerted the DepEd-Sorsogon division office chief who in turn promised to send someone to the site.

Despite their protestations of innocence, the teachers were held up from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Comelec office in Bulan.

They were only released when they begged to be allowed to get some sleep and check on their families.

Gregorio's cell phone text cam

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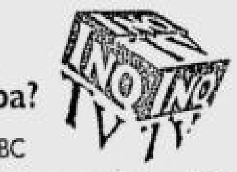

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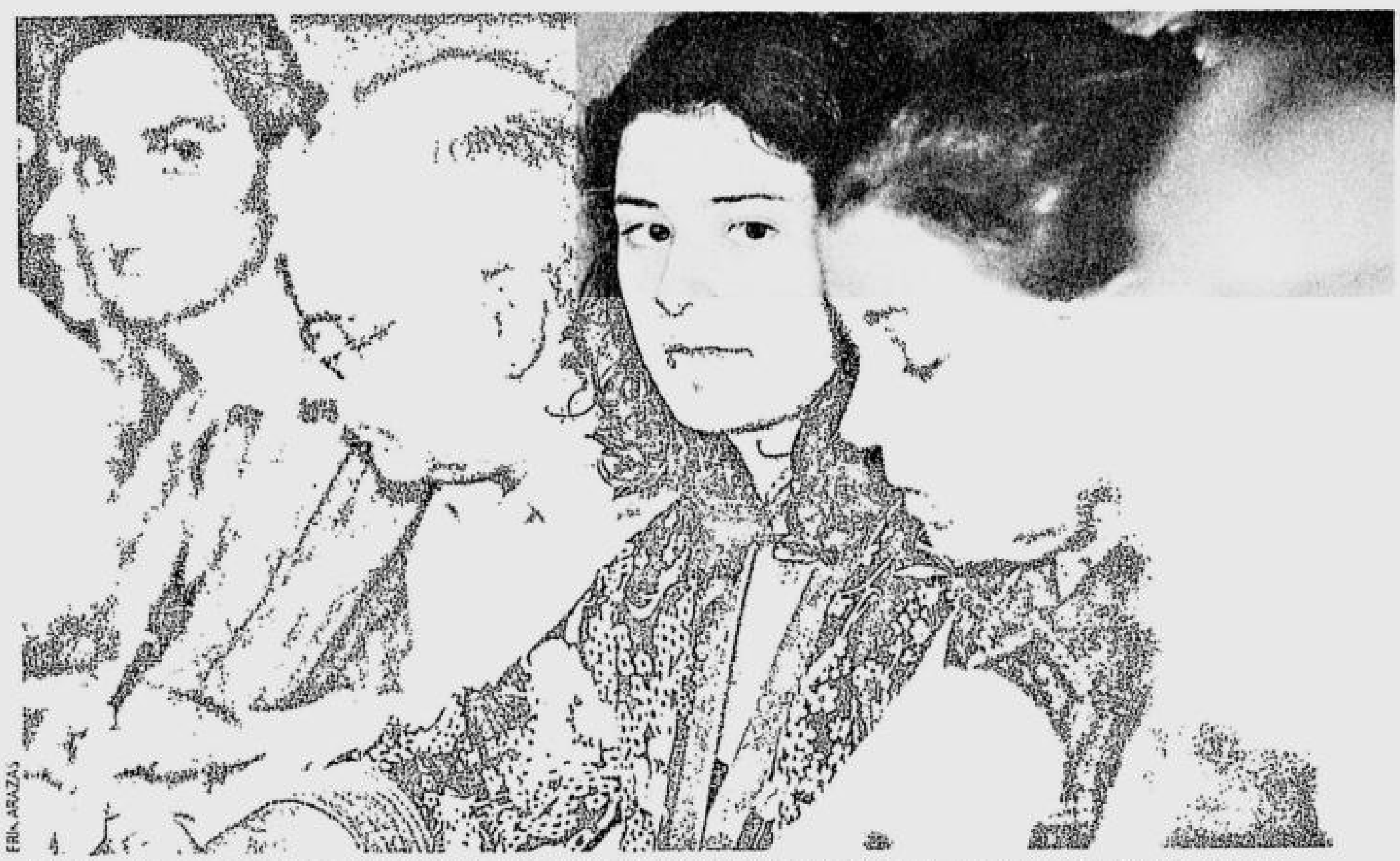

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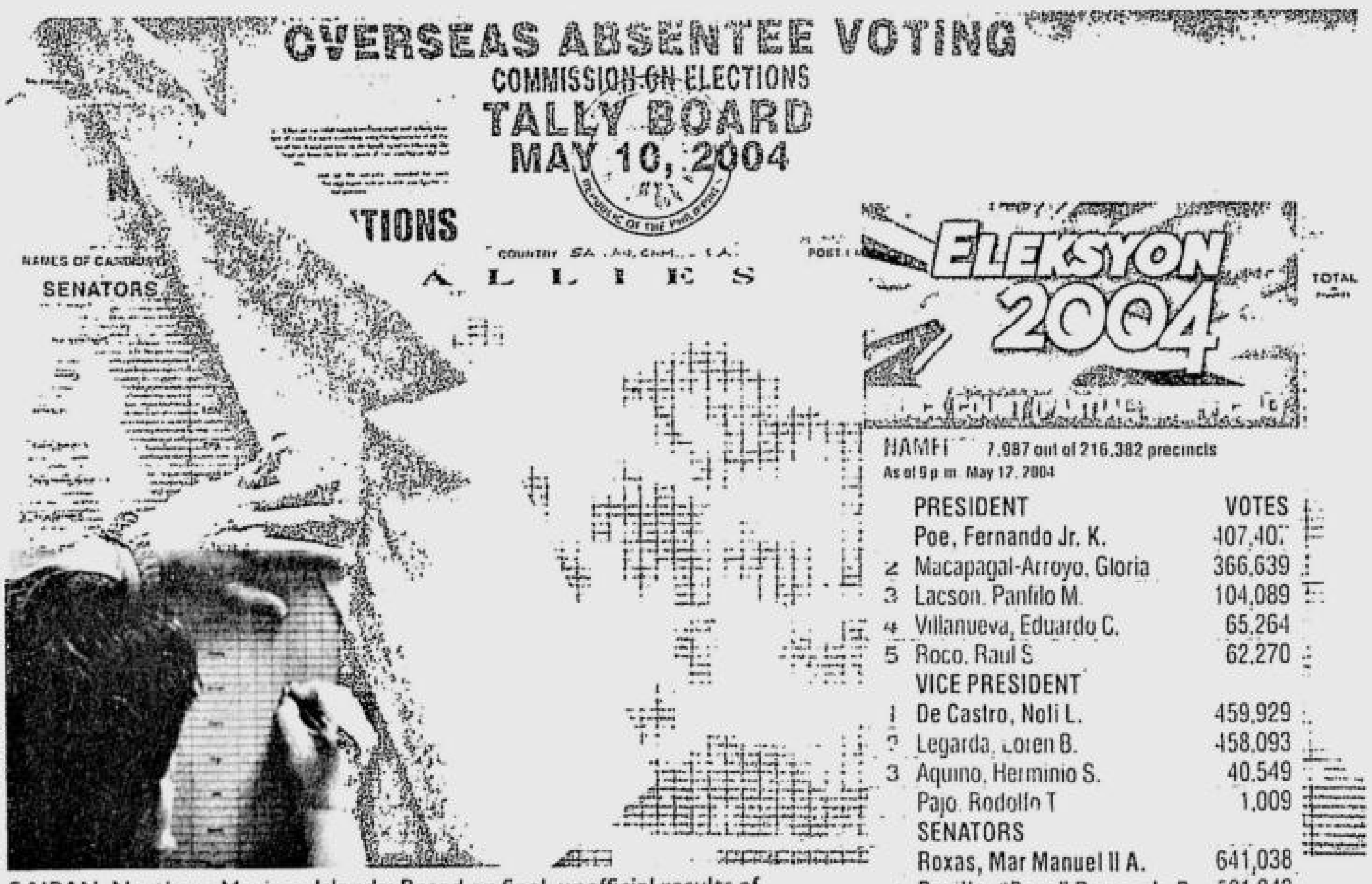

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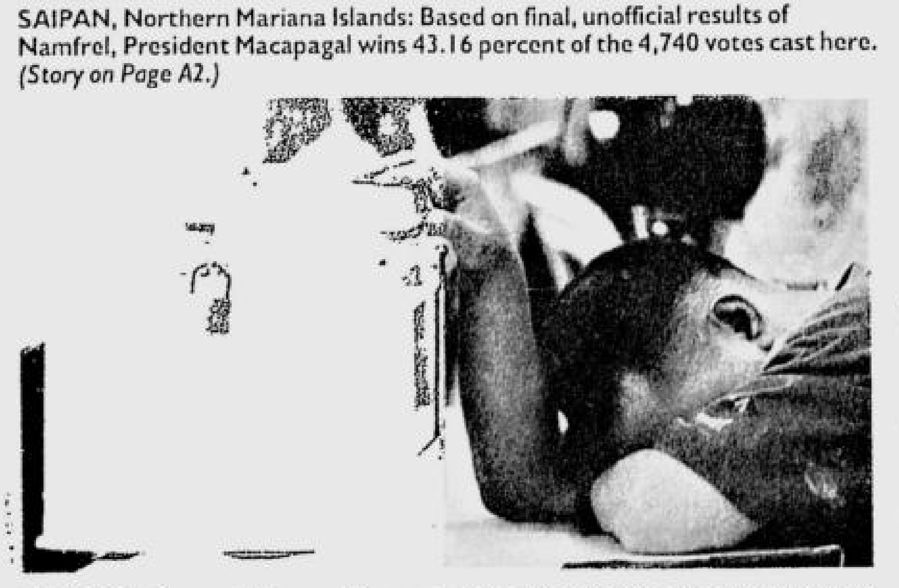

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming widespread over Eastern Visayas and Eastern Mindanao. The whole country will be partly cloudy to cloudy skies.

SOURCE PAGASA

COMPILED BY RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/05/13/04

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONT PAGE

GMA calls for calm, sobriety

No celebration yet at Palace; KNP says FPJ leading 2-to-1

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo, doing extremely well in exit polls, appealed for calm yesterday amid allegations of cheating and threats of "a new people power revolt," as officials prepare to count votes that look set to give her six more years as president.

Supporters of her closest rival, Fernando Poe Jr., yesterday threatened to hold massive street protests if the actor lost to Ms Macapagal. Poe's Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino (KNP) warned a "repeat of people power" if the counting of election turnouts would be tainted with fraud.

Another presidential candidate, Sen. Panfilo Lacson, however, won't join the planned demonstration of other candidates.

"Our order to our supporters is to stay in the precincts and guard our votes, and later the canvassing," said Lacson spokesperson Angelito Banayo.

Careful not to celebrate prematurely, Ms Macapagal called for patience during an official counting process that will take at least three weeks and which has proved vulnerable to cheating and violence in the past.

"The president is reaching out to all Filipinos to leave any residual rancor or animosity behind and buckle down to work and normalcy," her spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said. "We have had enough of political bickering and desperate attempts to grab power over the last three years and we are hoping the election has already settled these political issues."

If the poll results are confirmed, Ms Macapagal would secure victory by over three million votes and a legal six-year mandate. She assumed the presidency in 2001 after predecessor Joseph Estrada was deposed by a military-backed uprising.

A recent Social Weather Stations exit poll predicted Poe would lose to Ms Macapagal with 32 percent of the vote compared to the President's 41 per cent. The latest results from independent poll watchdog Namfrel, which traditionally gives an accurate picture of the official tally, showed Poe leading Ms Macapagal by nine percentage points. However, it had counted less than two percent of total ballots.

Warnings

Poe's camp has rejected the SWS exit poll and KNP spokesperson Mike Romero said their own exit polls showed Poe leading the President two-to-one. "All complaints of fraud are being collated now and we would give this to our lawyers," he said.

A group of retired military generals yesterday also warned the Armed Forces and the national police against failing to prevent the massive cheating purportedly prevailing in the canvassing of votes nationwide, but said it was calling for sobriety.

The group includes former AFP chief of staff Gen. Joselin Nazareno, former Army commanding general Jaime de los Santos, former Constabulary commander Tomas Diaz, Marine chief Braulio Balbas, Southcom chief Gomersido Yap, and Fortuno Cesar of the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency

De los Santos, who claimed promotions and appointments to juicy posts were promised in exchange for their involvement in election fraud, however added: "Cooler heads must prevail. We cannot afford another crisis."

Prayer rally

Religious and civic groups, meanwhile, gathered for a prayer rally in front of the Manila Cathedral yesterday in reaction to opposition threats to hold mass actions.

Fr. Romeo Intengan, provincial superior of the Jesuits' Society of Jesus, said the "vehemence and surrealness" of the pronouncements of the opposition and administration parties could lead to a confrontation that would charge the political community again.

He said recent media reports indicated that dialogue was "becoming very antagonistic. We come in spirit to make people more disposed to reason and dialogue so we can move toward peace and development, whoever wins."

Datu Haj Ansari Alonto, president of the Mindanao Islamic Center, said he received reports that some groups, which he refused to identify, were out to "hire" Muslims for their mass actions.

Joining the prayer rally with at least 20 other organizations, Konsensyang Pilipino said if a presidential candidate was unhappy with the quick count, he should just wait for the official results from the Commission on Elections.

Even though official results are not expected in weeks, the President called a Cabinet meeting yesterday to start delivering on her campaign promises, including creating 1 million jobs over the next six years, and plans to provide power to more homes, loans to small businesses, and cut-rate medicine for the poor.

Respect results

Administration candidate Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, meanwhile, calling on opposition parties to calm down and let the counting of the May 10 elections results proceed before claiming that there was massive cheating in the polls.

"If they really are offering themselves as leaders of this country, they should be a little more circumspect in what they say to the public and what they do," he added.

Lakas-CMD Representatives Oscar Rodriguez (Pampanga) and Isidoro Real (Zamboanga del Sur) also called on the opposition to respect the final results of the poll count instead of resorting to mob rule which are counter productive.

"Let us not allow divisiveness to prevail in the post-elections period as our people have already made a judgment on who should lead our nation. Let us respect their verdict which are now being determined by our electoral institutions," said Rodriguez. *With reports from Blanche Rivera, Norman Bordadora, Christian V. Esguerra, Philip C. Tubeza, AP, Reuters, AFP*

DELIVERING THE VOTES: Senate President Franklin Drilon receives the ballot box containing absentee votes from Maria Antonio Oblena, vice consul of the Philippine Embassy in Cambodia. The Senate has started receiving election returns from hundreds of diplomatic posts abroad for the first ever absentee voting in Philippine elections.

JESS YUSON

Overseas voting just like at home: chaotic

By Jerome Aning and Agnes E. Donato,
Contributor

VOTING overseas was no different from that of the chaotic home country's as Filipinos abroad, voting for the first time in Philippine elections, experienced power outages in the polling precincts, missing names in the voters' lists and a long and slow count.

The joint overseas absentee voting monitoring and action center reported that it had already counted 40 percent of the absentee votes in 223 out of 577 precincts located in various Philippine diplomatic posts around the world.

Only 16 posts, mostly in the Middle East and Africa, have yet to submit their election returns to the center, jointly operated by the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Commission on Elections, according to Catherine Maceda, vice chair of the DFA's OAV Secretariat.

The center is prohibited from making public the results of the tally but a high-ranking DFA official said President Macapagal-Arroyo was leading 2 to 1 over her closest rival, Fernando Poe Jr.

The final results of the National Citizens Movement for Free Elections' unofficial quick count of the vote in Saipan, in the Northern Marianas, showed Ms Macapagal and De Castro winning the overwhelming support of Filipino voters in Saipan and in Guam.

The President received 2,047, or 43.16 percent of the 4,740 votes cast in the two areas, beating Poe who got only 1,096, or 23.12 percent, by a wide margin, according to the Namfrel quick count.

Bong Sese, the Namfrel representative in Saipan, said the election results were credible, although the counting took two days to be completed.

The final Comelec count in Guam also showed the President and De Castro winning.

Maceda said the official counting was still going on in the countries with the biggest number of voters, particularly Hong Kong, Singapore and Saudi Arabia.

She said election officials there were taking a long time counting the ballots because unlike in the Philippines, where each precinct has 200 voters, those abroad have 500 to 800.

Filipino diplomats have already brought to Manila the original certificates of canvass from Laos and Cambodia, which arrived on Tuesday night, and from Palau, which arrived at noon yesterday. Fourteen other COCs were expected to arrive yesterday and 28 today.

Voting centers in Riyadh, al-Khobar and Jeddah in Saudi Arabia; Dubai in the United Arab Emirates; Bahrain; Oman; and Kuwait have yet to submit their returns to the center.

In the Saipan Namfrel count, Sen. Panfilo Lacson ranked third with 645 votes, followed by former education secretary Raul Roco with 461 votes, and evangelist Eddie Villanueva with 435 votes.

De Castro ruled the vice-presidential race with 3,183 or 67.15 percent of the votes cast against Loren Legarda with 1,383, or 29.18 percent of the votes.

The top 14 senators in the Northern Marianas vote were: Alfredo Lim, 3,196 votes; Mar Roxas, 2,925; Richard Gordon, 2,742; Ramon Revilla Jr., 2,655; Orlando Mercado, 2,435; Lito Lapid, 2336; Robert Barbers, 2,330; Aquilino Pimentel, 2,298; Rodolfo Biazon, 2,321; Miriam Defensor Santiago, 2,229; Pilar Cayetano, 1,838; Boots Anson-Roa, 1,764; John Osmeña, 1,692; and Robert Jaworski, 1,590.

ELECTION POWER SITUATION

95 outages in 3 days

By Abigail L. Ho

DESPITE earlier assurances of a brownout-free election, at least 95 power outages were experienced by residents within the franchise area of the Lopez-owned Manila Electric Co. in the last three days since Monday, including a day-long brownout which affected parts of Batangas.

But Energy Secretary Vincent Perez said the outages were considered "normal" since most of the 216,000 polling places nationwide had uninterrupted electricity.

The inter-agency Task Force Halalan 2004 yesterday winded up its power monitoring activities.

Perez said the rest of the country also had fairly normal operations, with power generally uninterrupted in most areas in the country.

He said months of preparations before the elections averted any major outages during the election period.

"Interruptions were highly isolated and infrequent. Most trippings were also transient," he said. "We prepared as best as we can but, at the end of the day, it all depended on the state of the electrical wiring (of the polling places)."

The day-long power outage which hit Batangas affected around 9 percent of Batangas City and the whole of San Pascual town.

The damage at Meralco's Bolbok substation was caused by busted control wiring when a fire broke out in the substation's control room.

"Our crews are still assessing the situation. We're also still looking at how long it will take for us to restore power there," Meralco senior assistant vice president Fortunato Leynes said earlier.

Meralco first vice president and networks head Ricardo Buencamino said operations are now back to normal after electricity in all affected areas was restored early Wednesday.

"Our crews worked round-the-clock to restore power. Around 80 people were there," he said. "While they had no power, we supplied 13 gensets (generating sets) and 38 floodlights to canvassing areas affected by the outage."

The Department of Energy plans to propose that the Department of Budget and Management provide a one-time "special capital expenditure" to upgrade the electrical wirings in schools used as polling places.

Perez said the Department of Education should be given such a budget so it could conduct repairs and adjustments of the schools' electrical systems to prevent power failures during elections.

He noted that in the past two days since Monday's polls and even in past elections, the main cause of power disruptions in school precincts were blown fuses as a result of system overloads.

"It's one thing for the DepEd to ask for money. But if the DOE will be the one to ask, maybe they'll (DBM) take it more seriously," he said in an earlier interview.

"Since we're moving towards automated polls anyway, maybe it's about time we also upgrade the schools' wiring systems," he added.

Asked if the DOE and its attached agencies would help come up with an estimate of how much the DBM should allocate for the special capex, he said that would be the likely scenario.

GMA thanks Iglesia, El Shaddai

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and Volt Contreras

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday issued a statement thanking the politically influential Iglesia ni Cristo Christian sect and the El Shaddai Catholic charismatic group for the "heart-warming support" that they gave her in the just concluded May 10 elections.

"I will cherish this as an inspiration to uphold moral leadership that truly lives in the fountain of the Almighty," the President said as exit polls and initial quick count results showed her leading her closest rival Fernando Poe Jr.

"Ka Erdie Manalo and Bro. Mike Velarde and I share a deep commitment to the welfare of the people and I shall maintain this shared promise for a better tomorrow for the Filipino people," she said.

Manalo is executive minister of the INC, which reportedly votes as a bloc, while Velarde is "shepherd" of the El Shaddai. Both endorsed the candidacy of Ms Macapagal and her running mate, Sen. Noli de Castro.

Deputy presidential spokesperson Ricardo Saludo said the Palace was not aware if the INC and El Shaddai membership did vote solidly for the President.

"I think this is a matter that is still being counted so we have no idea," Saludo said at a briefing.

He said the President was simply expressing her gratitude based on the statement of support by the leaders of the two sects.

Prime Minister Gloria in 2007?

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

ASSUMING President Macapagal-Arroyo wins a full-term, would she shift to a parliamentary system of government midway into her six-year term?

A source from the administration who did not want to be identified offered an explanation: "If she (Ms Macapagal) wins, she will serve six years. But on record, she has said that by 2007, she's going to support the move for a constitutional convention and then change (the system) to parliamentary. That means she'll lose three years that are rightfully hers. Why would she do that?" the Macapagal ally began.

"It would be naïve to say she just wants to improve the government structure. Perhaps she expects that after the shift to the parliamentary (system), she would be capable of getting herself elected as Prime Minister," the source said. "A Prime Minister has an open-ended term like Margaret Thatcher who served 12 years (as British premier). That could be what we are facing."

A Prime Minister's term depends on the kind of parliamentary government the constitutional convention would elect to replace the present unitary, presidential system.

"But there is a parliamentary system where once you are voted—and you have a majority (among the members of parliament)—you stay forever, unless there is a vote of no-confidence," the source said.

Ms Macapagal has included the shift to parliamentary system in her platform of government during the recently-concluded campaign. In getting the support of El Shaddai, she agreed with its leader Mike Velarde to convene a constitutional convention immediately after the election.

She told reporters on Tuesday that she would submit an administration measure calling for a con-con.

Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. also told the INQUIRER that before the campaign period started last February, the President said she was amenable to stepping down in 2007 to pave the way for the shift to the new system of government.

There are other political players, the source disclosed, who have their own designs in the planned Charter change and who have the support of both chambers of Congress and most sectors of society.

Businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, chair of San Miguel Corp. and founder of the Nationalist People's Coalition—the second biggest party in the House of Representatives—is advocating a parliamentary system for practical reasons.

"Instead of buying all 1,500 mayors, 98 provincial governors and thousands of government officials, he will just buy 200 Members of Parliament, then he's president," the source said.

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern L[illegible]on, Visayas and M[illegible] [illegible] cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms [illegible] widespread over Eastern Visayas and Eastern M[illegible] whole country will be part[illegible] [illegible] PAGASA

[illegible]MPILED BY RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH, 05/13/04

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONT PAGE

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rain	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rain	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rain	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

GMA calls for calm, sobriety

DELIVERING THE VOTES: Senate President Franklin Drilon receives the ballot box containing absentee votes from Maria Antonio Oblena, vice consul of the Philippine Embassy in Cambodia. The Senate has started receiving election returns from hundreds of diplomatic posts abroad for the first ever absentee voting in Philippine elections.

No celebration yet at Palace; KNP says FPJ leading 2-to-1

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo, doing extremely well in exit polls, appealed for calm yesterday amid allegations of cheating and threats of "a new people power revolt," as officials prepare to count votes that look set to give her six more years as president.

Supporters of her closest rival, Fernando Poe Jr., yesterday threatened to hold massive street protests if the actor lost to Ms Macapagal. Poe's Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino (KNP) warned a "repeat of people power" if the counting of election turnouts would be tainted with fraud.

Another presidential candidate, Sen. Panfilo Lacson, however, won't join the planned demonstration of other candidates.

"Our order to our supporters is to stay in the precincts and guard our votes, and later the canvassing," said Lacson spokesperson Angelito Banayo.

Careful not to celebrate prematurely, Ms Macapagal called for patience during an official counting process that will take at least three weeks and which has proved vulnerable to cheating and violence in the past.

"The president is reaching out to all Filipinos to leave any residual rancor or animosity behind and buckle down to work and normalcy," her spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said. "We have had enough of political bickering and desperate attempts to grab power over the last three years and we are hoping the election has already settled these political issues."

If the poll results are confirmed, Ms Macapagal would secure victory by over three million votes and a legal six-year mandate. She assumed the presidency in 2001 after predecessor Joseph Estrada was deposed by a military-backed uprising.

A recent Social Weather Stations exit poll predicted Poe would lose to Ms Macapagal with 32 percent of the vote compared to the President's 41 per cent. The latest results from independent poll watchdog Namfrel, which traditionally gives an accurate picture of the official tally, showed Poe leading Ms Macapagal by nine percentage points. However, it had counted less than two percent of total ballots.

Warnings

Poe's camp has rejected the SWS exit poll and KNP spokesperson Mike Romero said their own exit polls showed Poe leading the President two-to-one. "All complaints of fraud are being collated now and we would give this to our lawyers," he said.

A group of retired military generals yesterday also warned the Armed Forces and the national police against failing to prevent the massive cheating purportedly prevailing in the canvassing of votes nationwide, but said it was calling for sobriety.

The group includes former AFP chief of staff Gen. Joseli[illegible] Nazareno, former Army commanding general Jaime de los Santos, former Constabulary commander Tomas Diaz, Marine chief Braulio Balbas, Southcom chief Gomersido Yap, and Fortuno Cesar of the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency.

De los Santos, who claimed promotions and appointments [illegible] juicy posts were promised [illegible] change for their involvement [illegible] election fraud, however added "Cooler heads must pre[illegible]. We cannot afford another [illegible]

Prayer rally

Religious [illegible] meanwhile, gathered for a prayer rally in front of the Manila Cathedral yesterday in reaction to opposition threats to hold mass action.

Fr. Romeo Inten[illegible] pro[illegible] superior of the Jesuits Society of Jesus, said the "vehemence and surrealness" [illegible] the pronouncements of the opposi[illegible] and [illegible] ministration parties could lead to confrontation that would [illegible]harg[illegible] the political community again.

He said recent media reports indicated that di[illegible]gue was "becoming very antagonistic. We come [illegible] spirit to make people more [illegible]posed to reason and [illegible] we can move toward peace and development, whoever wins."

Datu Haj Ansari Alonto, president of the Mindanao Islamic Center, said he received reports that some groups, which he refused to identify, were out to "hire" Muslims for their mass actions.

Joining the prayer rally with at least 20 other organizations, Konsensyang Pilipino said if a presidential candidate was unhappy with the quick count, he should just wait for the official results from the Commission on Elections.

Even though official results are not expected in weeks, the President called a Cabinet meeting yesterday to start delivering on her campaign promises, including creating 1 million jobs over the next six years, and plans to provide power to more homes, loans to small businesses, and cut-rate medicine for the poor.

Respect results

Administration candidate Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, meanwhile, calling on opposition parties to calm down and let the counting of the May 10 election results proceed befo[illegible] [illegible]aing [illegible] he was [illegible] cheating [illegible] poll [illegible] offerin[illegible] [illegible] th[illegible] countr[illegible] shoul[illegible] [illegible] respect [illegible] public [illegible] added.

[illegible] CMP[illegible] Rep[illegible] Jose Rodriguez (Pampanga) and [illegible] Re[illegible] Zamboanga del Sur [illegible] led the opposition [illegible] respect [illegible] results of the [illegible] resorting to [illegible] in[illegible] pro[illegible]

[illegible] pre[illegible] [illegible] and [illegible] opinion [illegible] already mad[illegible] [illegible] should [illegible] respect their verdict wh[illegible] now being determined by [illegible] electoral institution [illegible] Rodriguez. *With reports from Blanche Rivera, Norman Bordadora, Christian V. Esguerra, Philip C. Tubeza, AP, Reuters, AFP*

Overseas voting just like at home: chaotic

By Jerome Aning
and Agnes E. Donato,
[illegible]ontributor

VOTING overseas w[illegible] diffe[illegible] from that of the chaotic [illegible] try's as Filipinos abroad vo[illegible] first time in Philippine [illegible]ectio[illegible] [illegible]xpe[illegible]rienced power outage[illegible] pol[illegible] precincts, missing na[illegible] [illegible] lists and a long [illegible]

The joint over[illegible] monitoring and [illegible] reported that it had already [illegible] 40 percent of the absentee [illegible] 223 out of 5[illegible] [illegible] various Philippine diplomatic posts around the world.

Only 16 post[illegible] Middle East and Africa have [illegible] submit their election returns to the center, jointly operated by the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Commission on Election[illegible] [illegible] to Catherine Maceda, [illegible] of the DFA's OAV Secretariat.

The center [illegible] prohibited [illegible] making public the results of the tally but a high-ranking DFA official said President Macapagal-Arroyo was leading 2 to 1 over [illegible] closest rival, Fernando Poe Jr.

The final results of the N[illegible] [illegible] the Nort[illegible] Ms Macapagal [illegible] of Filipino vo[illegible] [illegible] 2,04[illegible] [illegible] vote [illegible] beating Poe [illegible] ,096 [illegible] 12 pe[illegible] [illegible] id the [illegible] eligible [illegible] in [illegible] mpl[illegible] [illegible] d De[illegible] Mac[illegible] [illegible] gges[illegible] mber [illegible] arti[illegible] Ho[illegible] Ko[illegible] [illegible] beca[illegible] Philip[illegible] [illegible] 200 [illegible] those abroad have 500 to 800. [illegible] ino diplomats have already [illegible] Ma[illegible] [illegible] from Laos and Cambodia, which arrived on Tuesday, [illegible] and from Palau, which arrived [illegible] noon yesterday. Four [illegible] COCs were expected to ar[illegible] yesterday and 28 today.

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95 outages in 3 days

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The inter-agency Task Force [illegible] Halalan 2004 yesterday [illegible] power monitoring act[illegible]

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By Juliet Labog-Javellana
and Volt Contreras

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He said the President was simply expressing her gratitude based on the statement of support by the [illegible]

Prime Minister Gloria in 2007?

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

ASSUMING President Macapagal-Arroyo wins a full-term, would she shift to a parliamentary system of government mid way into her six-year term?

A source from the administration who did not want to be identified offered an explanation: "If she (Ms Macapagal) wins, she will serve six years. But on record, she has said that by 2007 she's going to support the move for a constitutional convention and then change (the system) to parliamentary. That means she'll lose three years that are rightfully hers. Why would she do that?" the Macapagal ally began.

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REQUIEM FOR A NATIONAL ARTIST
President Macapagal Arroyo views the remains of the late pianist, composer and National Artist for Music Jose Maceda during a visit yesterday at the Parish of the Holy Sacrifice in UP Diliman in Quezon City. The President is flanked by the two daughters of Maceda, 87, who died on Wednesday.
VAL HANDUMON

GMA to hold 1st post-poll Cabinet meet tomorrow

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo will hold her first post-election Cabinet meeting this Friday. First on the agenda is the implementation of her six-point campaign promises.

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said: "We are lining up the priorities that were somewhat sidetracked by the elections and gearing up for a big push in the governance agenda."

The President wants the Cabinet to discuss how to implement the projects she promised during the 90-day campaign period.

These projects are: Creating at least one million new jobs a year up to 2010; delivering clean water to all barangays; putting up power lines in 1,500 barangays every year and slashing power costs; jacking up lending by 300 percent to small and medium enterprises; constructing 3,000 schoolhouses, providing personal computers in every school, as well as granting scholarships to poor students; and reducing the price of medicine by 50 percent.

Although the Commission on Elections is only expected to declare a winner in the tightly fought presidential derby by the end of this month, the President is apparently putting her faith on the exit poll of the Social Weather Stations.

She placed No. 1 among the presidential aspirants, with a 41 percent share of the 4,627 respondents interviewed a day after the polls, or nearly 10 percentage points ahead of actor Fernando Poe Jr.

With the campaign over, key Cabinet members who took an active role in the President's reelection are expected to return to their previous posts. Michael Defensor will be back in the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council and Silvestre Afable will return to the Presidential Management Staff.

Two generals vie for top PAF post

By Alcuin Papa

TWO MAJOR generals, one of whom is a mistah of presidential candidate Sen. Panfilo Lacson at the Philippine Military Academy, are among the top contenders for the top post at the Philippine Air Force.

Current Air Force chief Lt. Gen. Nestor Santillan is due to retire on Friday.

Among those being eyed to replace Santillan are Maj. Gen. Edwin Galzote and Maj. Gen. Jose Reyes.

Galzote, a PMA graduate of Class '71, is currently the Armed Forces of the Philippines inspector general. He is a graduate of the Air Force's Flying School batch of 1972.

Galzote is set to retire in June next year when he reaches the mandatory retirement age of 56. He got his second star only last month.

Prior to his appointment as AFP's inspector general, Galzote was commander of the 570th Composite Tactical Wing based in Puerto Princesa City in Palawan. He is also holder of two distinguished service stars and two bronze cross medals, among other awards.

Reyes, on the other hand, is the AFP deputy chief of staff for comptrollership. He placed fourth in the graduating class of PMA in 1973. He also graduated from the PAF Flying School in 1975.

Reyes, who got his second star last year, had served as commander of the 15th Strike Wing based in Sangley, Cavite before being appointed as AFP comptroller. Among his other awards are two distinguished service stars, two bronze cross medals and two silver wing medals. He is due to retire in February 2007.

An advantage Reyes that could count on in the race is that he hails from San Jose, Batangas, the home province of Defense Secretary Eduardo Ermita.

After the AFP Board of Generals makes a recommendation on Santillan's replacement, it will have to be submitted first to Ermita before it reaches the desk of President Macapagal-Arroyo for approval.

Since there is an existing ban on all government appointments during the election period until June 9, it is likely the President will appoint an officer-in-charge and choose from a long list of senior PAF officers including Galzote, Reyes, PAF Vice Commander Maj. Gen. Arcadio Seron, who is also a member PMA Class '71.

A permanent appointment can be made when Santillan retires this week but only with the approval of the Commission on Elections. But, Seron might not be appointed permanent PAF chief since he has less than a year to go before he retires on Jan. 8 next year.

Lifestyle checks to resume

By Armand N. Nocum

WITH the victory of President Macapagal-Arroyo within sight, a ranking Ombudsman official yesterday said that it was full speed ahead for the government's lifestyle check program, one of the President's centerpiece projects.

The anti-corruption drive has gotten a big shot in the arm with the World Bank granting the Office of the Ombudsman a P42 million (US $750,000) grant for the agency's projects, including its efforts to strengthen the investigative and "prosecutorial skills" of its staff.

"This will reinvigorate the government's lifestyle check program," said Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio, who recently flew to Washington to give a presentation on the agency's anti-graft program which helped to clinch the loan.

Villa-Ignacio said the WB officials were greatly impressed by how the Ombudsman's office, and other agencies in the Lifestyle Check Coalition, succeeded in enlisting the help of non-government organizations, the civil society groups and students in the fight against graft.

He said the grant of the loan showed that the World Bank has "faith and confidence" in the anti-graft agency under Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo who personally oversaw the formulation of the plans and programs that he presented to the World Bank.

"This is an acknowledgment on the part of the World Bank that this time we are serious in the fight against graft," he said.

Villa-Ignacio said the Lifestyle Check Coalition would have continued with the lifestyle check program "no matter what administration" won the national elections.

He said the government loses an estimated P20 billion to graft and corruption each year.

"We hope to reduce it by 50 percent to help retain some P10 billion for public service yearly," he said.

Since Marcelo's takeover, he said the Ombudsman's office has increased its conviction rate from 6 to 14 percent.

Since the start of the lifestyle check program early last year, several officials from the Department of Public Works and Highways, the Bureau of Customs and the Bureau of Internal Revenue have been suspended or dismissed on graft charges.

About 80 more officials are under various stages of investigation and prosecution for various irregularities.

Lapid Foods
MAKER OF
Lapid's FRESHLY POPPED Chicharon
(OOPS, TANDAAN PO YUNG MAY "FRESHLY POPPED" ANG LOGO)
JOINS
SHOPWISE
IN GIVING YOU
FUN AND VALUE SHOPPING EXPERIENCE
AT THE ARANETA CENTER
SEE US STARTING FRIDAY MAY 14, 2004

FACTORY & OFFICE
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Bomb kills girl in Jolo; co-ed shot dead in Marawi

MARAWI CITY: Marines inspect the identification papers of a supporter of a local politician in the aftermath of last Tuesday's shooting at the Mindanao State University. The Marines were accused of firing into a crowd of vendors and students but they denied the accusation. AL FRITZ ERMAC/CONTRIBUTOR

From page A1

mored personnel carrier passed by Amin's house, which also served as the congressman's headquarters.

The Simba was on its way to the nearby Notre Dame for Boys School, where the counting of votes was being held.

Police were looking into the possibility that the attack was politically motivated

Agence France-Presse said the attackers were suspected to be members of the Abu Sayyaf, the notorious kidnap-for-ransom group.

The blast shattered the glass windows of some houses and business establishments.

TV footage showed a parked van riddled with holes and the wreckage of a motorcycle on the blood-splattered road where the bomb went off.

A bloodied man was wheeled into a hospital room while a woman beside him sobbed, pounding on a wall with her fist.

Marines deny attack

The others wounded were identified as Jernalyn Abela, 13; Jackelyn Chang, 12; Asa, 39; Jul Ibno, 30; Radzmil Assi, 21; Arwina Alih, 18; Merilyn Abbae, 41; Alon Ibno, 24; Gulam Taib, age not available; Minda Amil, 49; Hataie Jumah, 25; Adessa Haradji, 23; and Julie Wahid, age not available.

In Marawi City, a 21-year-old student from Butuan City was killed while eight others were wounded when Marines allegedly opened fire on a crowd milling outside the MSU gym, where the canvassing of returns was to be held.

Remy Antoniette Guillanes, a business student, was hit in her lower back, according to a nurse at the Amai Pakpak Medical Center in Marawi.

The military denied allegations that the soldiers had opened fire without provocation.

Brig. Gen. Francisco Gudani, commander of the local Marine contingent, said his men were forced to return fire when they were shot at.

A witness said he was among the hundreds of people waiting for the start of canvassing of election returns in the gym when Marines suddenly fired.

"It was an unprovoked attack," another witness said. "We were peacefully gathered outside the MSU gym."

Initial police reports said the Marines were guarding the gym when armed men opened fire.

Chief Supt. Isnaji Bantala, of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, said his men were investigating the soldiers after witnesses claimed they had fired without provocation.

All of the injuries were caused by gunshot wounds, according to hospital personnel.

Zero vote

On Bongo island off Parang, Maguindanao, losing vice mayoral candidate Sampang Boga and his followers allegedly shot dead an aunt of rival Adnan Biruar, police said.

Insp. Shaham Isnain, Parang police chief, said Boga supposedly shot Hadja Muslima with an Armalite rifle during a heated argument.

Isnain said Boga flared because he got zero vote on the island.

"He was so mad because he could not believe it," Isnain said.

Boga and Biruan are both residents of the place.

After the shooting, Boga and his followers fled on four pumpboats and were last seen heading toward Matanog town, Isnain said.

A manhunt has been launched for the suspects.

Police chief killed

In the Bantayan island incident, Staff Sgt. Mario Benito allegedly shot at close range police chief SPO4 Arsenio Escarda outside the police station.

Benito was detained at the stockade inside Camp Lapulapu, pending the filing of criminal charges.

Comelec and police officials, however, were quick to describe the killing as an "isolated incident."

Edwin Cadungog, election provincial supervisor, said personal grudge between Benito and Escarda triggered the killing, and not politics.

He, however, approved the transfer the canvassing of votes to the Comelec regional office in Cebu City due to the tense situation in the municipality.

Houses torched

In Malabang, Lanao del Sur, unidentified men simultaneously razed at least 100 houses in the villages of Bacolod, Banday and Territory around 1 p.m. yesterday, police said.

Insp. Randal Bueno, Malabang police chief, said he believed the incident was election-related.

"The political rivalry in Malabang is very tense, particularly during this time that the results of the votation are becoming clear," Bueno said.

He said Marine soldiers had arrived to help the police secure other villages, which the arsonists might also attack.

Eid Kabalu, spokesperson for the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, said MILF followers in Malabang reported that fire was still raging at 4 p.m. and that it had razed a mosque in Barangay Banday.

Kabalu said the MILF had no idea who was behind the attack.

Mayhem in North

Guns also created mayhem in Cagayan Valley.

In Isabela, a policeman was killed while several ballot boxes and election materials were burned in two separate attacks by armed men in the town halls of San Mariano and Jones on Tuesday night.

Members of the boards of election inspectors were canvassing votes in the town halls when the gunmen attacked in San Mariano at 9 p.m. and in Jones at 10:15 p.m.

In San Mariano, at least 15 armed men wearing bonnets burned ballot boxes and election materials and stole six other boxes filled with ballots.

Senior Supt. Nelson Nario, Isabela police director, identified the slain policeman as PO3 Manuel Artuz.

SPO3 Efren Tamang was wounded in his left foot while a municipal guard was hit in the left ear.

Armed with Armalite rifles and Uzi machine pistols, the gunmen went to the third floor of the town hall, poured gasoline on the ballot boxes, tally sheets and other election materials and burned them.

The attackers fled in a red Tamaraw FX and a white Ford Ranger pickup.

Vice Mayor Eduardo Viernes, who was with his watchers, said the attack was "very swift."

San Mariano, a first-class town, has been classified as an election hot spot, along with six other towns and a city in Isabela.

Dys deny involvement

Businessman Alexander Dy, a member of the Dy political dynasty in the province, ran for mayor in the town against Edgar Go and Steven Troy Miranda. Latest reports showed Dy was trailing Go.

Dy family members dismissed reports that they were behind the attacks in the two towns, which are known bailiwicks of their opponents.

Rep. Faustino Dy III said the slain policeman was a security aide of his brother, Alexander.

He condemned the attacks which, he said, could be the handiwork of his family's political opponents, who wanted to tarnish the Dys' name.

In Jones, armed men raided the town hall an hour later and burned election documents, police said.

Nario said the suspects were also aboard a pickup truck and a Tamaraw FX van.

No one was reported hurt in the attack.

Teams from the Army's 45th Infantry Battalion and the provincial police have been formed to track down the suspects.

Police have also set up checkpoints in the towns of Benito Soliven, Naguilian, Echague and San Agustin towns.

In Gumaca, Quezon, the most militant activist in the province was shot by two unidentified gunmen yesterday.

Pedro Gonzales, Anakpawis provincial chair, was standing in front of the party-list's office when two motorcycle-riding gunmen fired at him. Severely wounded, he was rushed to the Gumaca District Hospital by his fellow activists. *Reports from Ed General and Noralyn Mustafa, Rosa May V. de Guzman, Rex G. Ortega and Grace C. Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau; Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau, Ed General and Noralyn Mustafa, Rosa May V. de Guzman, Rex G. Ortega and Grace C. Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau, Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau and Christian V. Esguerra and Alcuin Papa*

4 Pinoys killed in Iraq mortar attack, says GMA

From page A1

The deaths bring to five the number of Filipino fatalities in Iraq since the US invasion of the country last year. A Filipino truck driver was killed on April 28 when his convoy was attacked on the Baghdad-Kuwait road by insurgents fighting a US-led occupation forces.

"It was a stroke of bad luck that they were exposed and unprotected at the time of the attack," Ms Macapagal said in a statement.

While the identities of the fatalities were being verified by the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), Ms Macapagal said that the victims' next of kin will be provided all assistance necessary for the repatriation of the remains.

"I condole with the families affected by this tragedy," Ms Macapagal said.

Only 1, not 4?

But at the DFA, Undersecretary for Migrant Workers Affairs Jose Brillantes reported early evening yesterday that only one was killed while three other workers were wounded in the attack based on a report by Philippine Chargé d'Affaires to Iraq Ricardo Endaya.

Brillantes told reporters that he spoke to Endaya one hour after the latter's team arrived in Camp Anaconda to verify the mortar explosion.

Brillantes identified the fatality as Raymond Trinidad, a warehouse man in his late 20s. One worker was seriously wounded and two others were slightly injured, he added without identifying them.

Earlier in the day, Foreign Secretary Delia Albert confirmed only one fatality, but added that there may be more.

Secure them

Endaya, citing his own sources, initially reported one death and three injuries to the DFA. He, however, modified the report to four fatalities and later took it back.

Ms Macapagal said the attack on Camp Anaconda at the Balad base in the Sunni Triangle north of Baghdad happened around 8:30 p.m. Iraq time (1:30 a.m. in Manila) on Tuesday. The camp is an American military base, which is home to 1,364 Filipino workers who were brought into Iraq by Prime Projects International, a company based in Dubai in the United Arab Emirates contracted by the United States.

Prior to the attack, the inter-agency Team Iraq, headed by Ambassador Roy Cimatu, visited the camp three times, the President said. All Filipinos employed inside the US military camp had registered with the government and their safety ensured by newly built, protective underground bunkers.

Ms Macapagal, a staunch ally of Washington, instructed the DFA and Team Iraq to "make a clear-cut assessment of the safety of our civilians employed in US military installations in Iraq."

"Our OFWs should be accorded the best protection available in their places of work and residence," she said. "This must be made clear to the employers and authorities concerned."

In addition, there are an estimated 4,000 Filipino workers in Iraq, mostly employed by companies contracted by the United States. A small contingent of 43 Filipino soldiers and eight policemen is based at Al Hilla in central Iraq.

After the death of the Filipino driver, the government has banned local employment agencies from sending Filipino nationals to work in Iraq until further notice.

Ms Macapagal maintained that her administration had no plans of pulling out its peacekeeping force and health workers from Iraq. *Reports from AP, AFP and Reuters*

DepEd election hotline saves teachers detained in Sorsogon

From page A1

through the DepEd task force at 7:51 a.m.

At the time, she later told the duty officer, she, her fellow teachers and several poll watchers with them were being barred from getting off the boat.

The teachers boarded a boat at 5 a.m. to transport the ballot boxes and election returns from their barangay to the Comelec office.

"*May problema kami* d2 *sa* Bulan Sor/*ayaw kaming pababain sa* boat *na cnakyan namin*. we need help very badly," read her text.

Gregorio told the task force duty officer that the teachers were making a copy of the election returns so they could give a copy to the DepEd.

Photocopy of COC

The DepEd task force has asked teachers to give it a photocopy of the certificate of canvass (COC) but only for the national positions for future reference.

Gregorio said the poll watchers agreed to let them open the ballot boxes.

Then a group of men, according to Gregorio, boarded the boat and accused them of tampering with the returns.

She said a woman, who later turned out to be the sister-in-law of Bulan mayoral candidate Rene Guyala, prevented them from leaving the boat.

"She said many bad things about us. We do not cheat. We can not do that," said Gregorio when the INQUIRER reached her at 3:15 p.m.

By 8 a.m., Guyala's other supporters and a throng of people reportedly arrived on the scene and the teachers were taken to the Comelec office.

Gregorio said a DepEd legal officer, a certain Attorney Go, later interceded on their behalf.

No one else came to help them.

Amit said that if a case is filed against the teachers, the task force would review the complaint first to see if it was a mere harassment suit.

Heroic job

He said the task force expected many harassment suits in the coming days from losing candidates.

The DepEd task force yesterday continued to monitor teacher-related election incidents.

In Dupax Del Norte, Nueva Vizcaya, a teacher and two poll volunteers were abducted in a ballot-snatching incident at around 4:30 a.m.

The three, including the teacher, Emmanuel Cabilang, turned up at around 1 p.m.

In Pangasinan, three teachers were reportedly injured in a road accident while transporting election returns.

Aivan Amit, task force officer-in-charge, said the task force referred the incidents to the nearest DepEd, Comelec or PNP office.

DepEd officials offered to console teachers by hailing them as "heroes of the elections."

"They did a heroic job," Secretary Edilberto De Jesus was quoted by officials as saying.

The DepEd, however, has no monetary reward for the teachers.

Despite the high number of casualties in general, the May 10 elections were generally "uneventful" for the teachers who manned the polling precincts, according to a group of teachers.

"In general, compared to the 2001 elections, this election was relatively better from the point of view of teachers," said Antonio Tinio, chair of the Alliance of Concerned Teachers, which put up a teachers' hotline during the election.

"We didn't receive as many major problems as before. So it was uneventful, based on our monitoring," he said.

Tinio said the ACT hotlines stopped ringing a day after the elections.

The head of the DepEd's elections operations center also expressed satisfaction with how the election played out.

"As far as the DepEd and teachers are concerned, (the elections) went very well on the whole," said Education Undersecretary Jose Luis Gascon.

He said the problems that cropped up, as reported by the teachers themselves, were usually the fault of the Comelec.

The usual teachers complaints received by the DepEd and the ACT had to do with the delayed delivery of election materials, incomplete materials and missing names in the computerized voters list.

Ambush

As of yesterday, the DepEd and ACT had not confirmed election-related casualties among teachers.

Gascon said his office was verifying media reports that a teacher was among those killed in an ambush of a convoy delivering ballot boxes in Zamboanga.

A week before the elections, a 58-year-old teacher Dionisia Ferrer died of stroke during a Comelec briefing in Lingayen, Pangasinan.

Three teachers were also confirmed to have been hurt in a road accident in Urdaneta City, while transporting ballot boxes to the city hall.

They are insured for hospitalization and medical expenses for up to P100,000.

As usual, the teachers were not spared from harassment and ill-treatment from the public, the candidates and their supporters.

"Despite all the difficulties, despite the increase in violence, the elections came out on the whole without major hitches on matters that were within our control," Gascon said.

"Our teachers performed their duty with honor, credibility and dignity," he added.

If she wins, GMA will have majority in Congress

PRESIDENT Macapagal's political allies are dominating the race for seats in Congress based on an exit poll, raising prospects that she can push through crucial reform legislation.

Eight candidates from a pro-Arroyo K-4 coalition and four from the rival Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino (KNP) of opposition standard-bearer Fernando Poe Jr. are likely to win the dozen seats up for grabs in the Senate, according to an exit poll of voters after they cast ballots in Monday's national elections.

Macapagal has a commanding lead of 41 percent of the vote to 32 percent for Poe, her closest rival, pollster Social Weather Stations (SWS) said in its exit poll.

With seven or eight incumbent senators already behind her, Ms Macapagal would be assured of a majority in the Senate and a smoother road for her legislative agenda, including a reforms that investors say are key to putting the struggling economy back on its feet.

During the campaign, Ms Macapagal had promised to triple loans to small businesses and self-employed, cut electricity costs to the lowest rates in Asia and amend the Constitution to open up more opportunities for foreign investors.

"Arroyo will likely be assured of a cooperative Senate in the first 18 months," political analyst Earl Parreno told Reuters. "The President can likely expect less obstruction from the opposition. They don't have the numbers to challenge her."

Parreno, a trustee of the Institute of Political and Electoral Reforms, said the first 18 months will be very crucial for Ms Macapagal, if she is to fulfill campaign promises to cut the budget deficit, reduce poverty and create six million jobs.

He said the President need not worry about the races for 200 seats in the House of Representatives, because a majority of the likely winners belong to a coalition put together by her ally and House Speaker, Jose de Venecia, a savvy backroom politician known as "Sunshine Joe."

Noli de Castro, an incumbent senator and Ms Macapagal's running mate, was winning the race for vice president, according to the SWS poll, further eroding the opposition's chance to create political gridlock.

"I have seen how difficult it is to push the legislative agenda of the executive when you have a small majority," said Senate President Franklin Drilon, recalling Arroyo's problem in getting bills passed in this Congress, including the 2004 budget.

There is no guarantee senators would remain loyal throughout her six-year term.

"We have a very independent Senate whose members, most of the time, think and behave as individual Republics," Drilon said in an interview on Philippine television. "They vote freely on key issues, ignoring party position and loyalty."

According to the SWS exit poll, the Magic 12 is made up of the K-4 coalition's Mar Roxas, Bong Revilla, Pia Cayetano, Miriam Defensor-Santiago, Richard Gordon, Lito Lapid, Robert Barbers and Rodolfo Biazon and KNP's Aquilino Pimentel, Jamby Madrigal, Jinggoy Estrada and Juan Ponce Enrile. *Reuters*

'Still a long way to the finish'

'IT'S A long way to the finish line."

Thus said reelectionist Sen. Robert Jaworski yesterday as he dismissed the results of the exit polls and the unofficial and partial results of the senatorial elections that showed him a few slots off the Magic 12.

Jaworski, in a press statement one day after the results of the exit polls were released and two days after the elections, expressed confidence of victory. He said the public must trust only the official results as tabulated and released by the Commission on Elections.

Jaworski dismissed the partial and unofficial results released so far in media, saying they represent only a small percentage of the total votes cast in Monday's elections.

Nevertheless, Jaworski appealed to supporters to stay calm amid intrigues brought about by contradicting and confusing unofficial and partial results released by various entities.

"The truth will come out. Let's welcome that. Let the healing process and unification begin from us," he urged.

He thanked his supporters, including basketball fans, for their support.

"Jaworski fans are diehards. They don't let go easily. Even the sports sector is solid behind me. I ask the public to stay vigilant against election fraud," he said.

Msgr. Magliba of San Fabian, Pangasinan and the Surigao-based Philippine Benevolent Missionaries Association had earlier endorsed the senator.

"We are convinced that he has already won," ·Commander Willie Calma, BBF head, said.

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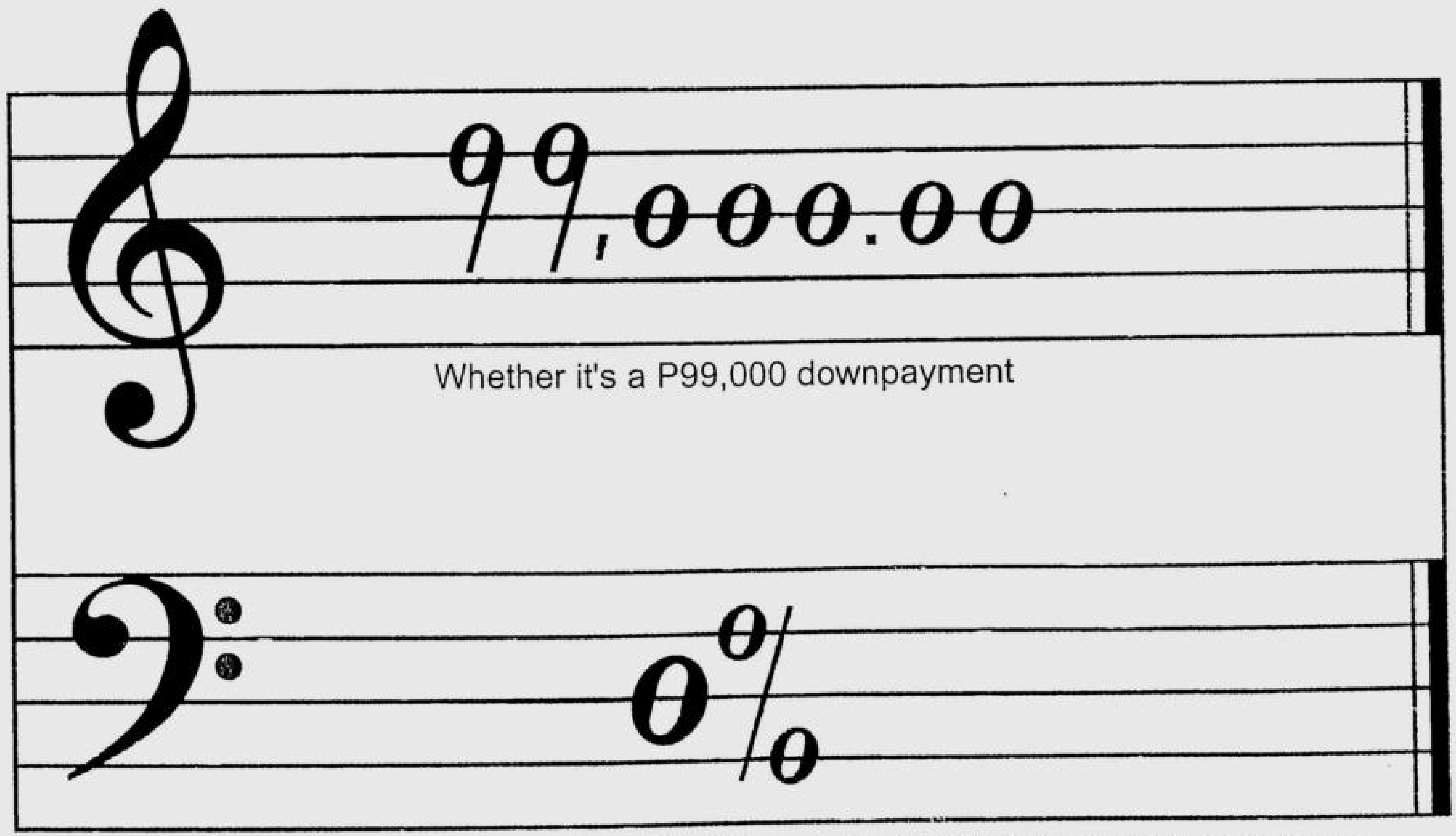

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RP electoral system still in the dark ages

WHILE A million officials across the country labor through a month-long vote count after Monday's elections, brand-new computers bought for the polls are gathering dust in a warehouse in Manila.

It did not have to be this way. In India, with an electorate nearly 10 times that of the Philippines, computerized voting ensured the results would be out three days after the last precincts closed on Monday.

The Filipino way harks back to the dark ages, where each vote is counted by hand and the results tabulated on paper. It is a long, laborious process, and it will take at least 25 days.

Exit polls showed more than 35 million of the 43.5 million registered voters cast their votes for the presidential, vice presidential, congressional and local elections.

Analysts say public resistance to moves to modernize the ossified system was ultimately to blame for the chaos that accompanied the voting.

Thousands of people found themselves left off electoral roles and in some areas elections had to be held the following day because the ballot papers had not arrived.

Jose Concepcion, head of the independent poll watchdog National Citizens Movement for Free Elections, said the voters' list problem began three years ago, when Congress voted to modernize the polling system.

"They messed up the list but that problem was not so big then," he said.

In February the Supreme Court outlawed a P1.3-billion government contract to automate the vote count that would have ensured the winners were known within 30 hours.

The Commission on Elections had already procured about 2,000 of the counting machines from a South Korean supplier by the time the ruling came down.

They are stored at a rented warehouse costing taxpayers some P300,000 a month, said Danilo Galvez of the Comelec administrative services division.

Huge lawsuits are expected because the court ordered the government to get the people's money back.

The system was not introduced this year simply because "Comelec was not ready," said University of the Philippines political scientist Herman Kraft.

The court found that "the winning bid was made by a group that did not exist prior to the bidding itself," he said. "Our law states that contracts must be awarded to companies that have a track record."

Kraft also said "there were bugs in the system which could not be ironed out in time for the election. The fact that it was not used was due to lack of preparation more than anything else."

The Comelec award process "is open to a lot of speculation," he added.

The public had always been ambivalent. Thirty percent of those polled by Social Weather Stations in September said the new system would make it "easier to cheat." While it works rather well in mature democracies with smaller populations, such as France, manual vote counts in the fractious archipelago of 84 million people have always been a logistical nightmare.

Poor infrastructure makes for a deadly mix when election officials have to count votes in precincts threatened by deadly local political rivalries and communist and Muslim separatist insurgencies.

"The mere fact that we were able to hold this election at all despite all the shortcomings of the Comelec was to me nothing short of a miracle," said University of the Philippines sociologist Randolph David.

A suspicious electorate has frustrated previous government efforts to amend the Constitution in favor of a parliamentary system, but President Macapagal-Arroyo has pledged to convince the public to abandon the cumbersome and gridlock-prone presidential system. *AFP*

FPJ leads by 40,000 in Namfrel quick count

From page A1

Nagkakaisang Pilipino (KNP) candidate led in the 5 p.m. count but de Castro overtook her later.

De Castro, the President's running mate, got 459,929 votes while Legarda received 458,093 votes.

De Castro topped the votes in Ilocos, Western Visayas, Central Visayas, Southern Mindanao, Western Mindanao and Caraga.

Legarda, on the other hand, came out strong in Cagayan, Central Luzon, Southern Tagalog, Eastern Visayas, Central Mindanao, ARMM, and NCR.

Jose Concepcion, Namfrel national chair, said only the OV results had not been included in the latest Namfrel tally.

Overseas vote

Concepcion said that OV tallies had already been sent by e-mail to the Namfrel quick count headquarters at La Salle, Greenhills and that the results would be reflected today.

He said the Namfrel count was no longer delayed because it was able to remove all barriers that were earlier preventing its system to receive the results in bulk from volunteers.

"We are fast catching up. The system is now working. Our system is sophisticated and is controlled-oriented," Concepcion told the Inquirer last night.

Concepcion said the Namfrel quick count was accurate because the tabulation was based on the 6th copy of the elections returns.

Earlier, Namfrel secretary-general Guillermo Luz said the tedious process of "match pair" or cross checking election returns was keeping Namfrel from picking up on its tally.

Luz said the results from Namfrel volunteers in the field were coming in trickles.

Perfect match

Also, volunteers still had to cross-check entries in election returns before adding election results to the tally board.

There were also cases when the precinct number of the results they received via text messaging and email did not match the precinct number on election returns.

"It has to be a perfect match," Luz said.

Recording election results this year is slower compared to previous elections due to the five-million increase in the number of voters and more elective posts up for grabs, Luz said.

He said that, as in past quick counts, Namfrel expects the bulk of the results to come in on the third or fourth day of the quick count operations, when the checking shall have been finished.

Battle for senatorial seats.

Administration candidate Mar Roxas was leading the senatorial race with 578,942 votes. He received the highest number of votes in all regions that submitted election returns.

Far second was Ramon "Bong" Revilla with 462,438 votes, followed by opposition candidate Aquilino Pimentel with 419,139 votes.

Also in the winning circle were Jamby Madrigal, 395,755; former Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, 386,243; Pia Juliana Cayetano, 372,164; Richard Gordon, 371,615; Alfredo Lim, 359,021; Jinggoy Estrada, 354,431; Juan Ponce Enrile, 316,308; Rodolfo Biazon, 312,092; and Robert Barbers, 302,314. *With a report from Martin Marfil*

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GMA takes Batanes

By Juliet Cataluna
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BASCO, Batanes—President Macapagal-Arroyo has won in this northernmost province, beating her closest rival Fernando Poe Jr. by 2,032 votes, the final count by the Commission on Elections here showed yesterday.

Ms Macapagal received 4,198 votes while Poe got 2,166 votes. Eighty-nine percent or 7,883 of the province's 8,785 registered voters turned up at polling precincts on May 10.

None of the five presidential candidates had campaigned in Batanes, which is 860 km from Manila. But the province is ruled by Ms Macapagal's allies in the Liberal Party led by outgoing Rep. Florencio Abad.

In the vice presidential race, Ms Macapagal's running mate, Noli de Castro, with 3,849 votes, edged out Poe's running mate Loren Legarda, who received 2,950 votes.

Winners, losers

Henedina Abad, wife of Rep. Florencio Abad, won over former Gov. Telesforo Castillejos in the race for the lone congressional district seat.

Reelectionist Gov. Vicente Gato and Vice Gov. Dante Castillejos, both of the LP, reclaimed their respective seats. They defeated German Caccam and William Agsunod of the Partido ng Masang Pilipino-Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino.

Lawyer Erwin Valeroso, chair of the provincial board of canvassers, proclaimed the winners in the mayoral races in Batanes's six towns.

They are LP candidates Manny Viola (Basco), Anastacio Barsana (Ivana), Marita Ibay (Uyugan), Johny Caballero (Sabtang), independent candidate Reuel Ibanez (Itbayat) and PMP-KNP candidate Pedro Poncio (Mahatao).

FPJ loses in own precinct

From page A1

But it seems these demonstrative admirers did not vote for him, or did not vote at all. That's according to the numbers from Precinct No. 227-A in Barangay Greenhills, San Juan, where the actor was registered as a voter and where, as a contender for the first position in the land, he landed third.

Which gives him absolutely no right to accuse the administration of rigging election results, according to Michael Defensor, President Macapagal-Arroyo's political spokesperson.

"In his own neighborhood, the President won," Defensor pointed out, announcing the scores: Ms Macapagal, 62 votes; Sen. Panfilo Lacson, 40; Poe, 25; evangelist Eddie Villanueva, 13; and ex-Sen. Raul Roco, 10.

He admitted that Ms Macapagal lost in her own region, Central Luzon, save for her hometown in Pampanga. All he's saying, Defensor said, is that the opposition should refrain from giving "irresponsible" statements. "Most of all, (they should) respect the results of the election."

Defensor assured reporters that Ms Macapagal's camp was willing to wait it out until the conclusion of the actual canvassing. But he could not resist predicting that his boss would even break the record set by ousted President Joseph Estrada, who won by a wide margin over his closest rival in 1998.

Poe peeved

Poe claimed Tuesday that his Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino was winning but that the results were not being reflected in media reports. In a brief television appearance, he looked unmistakably aggravated as he demanded that media "tell the truth, once and for all."

Then his supporters took to the streets in Makati City, declaring victory for their idol.

Up till then the actor—the strong, silent, cowboy-type hero onscreen—had been cool-headed, though exit polls and early counts showed him trailing Ms Macapagal. Asked right after he cast his ballot how confident he was of his clinching the presidency, he gave what Reuters described as a "typically laconic" reply: "It's a big possibility."

Hold your horses

Two administration congressmen yesterday advised the actor to hold his horses.

The KNP should "exercise restraint" instead of inciting "mob rule" to have its candidates installed, according to Lakas Rep. Oscar Rodriguez of Pampanga, vice chair of the House committee on justice.

Rodriguez and Rep. Isidoro Real (Zamboanga del Sur), vice chair of the committee on appropriations, issued a joint statement saying all opposition parties, in fact, should now heed Ms Macapagal's call for peace and unity.

Like Defensor, the two congressmen capped their piece with a little-disguised taunt. "Let us respect (the people's) verdict," they said, then added that, after all, the initial tallies "only validated pre-election surveys predicting the President's victory."

Ignore them

Poe and the other complaining candidates do not have even the ears of the National Citizens Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel), the independent poll watchdog traditionally critical of the Commission on Elections (Comelec).

Namfrel secretary general Guillermo Luz advised the media yesterday to ignore the protesters if they could not present concrete proof.

"You guys are being taken for a ride," an irate Luz said on nationwide television. "(Politicians) should exercise more responsibility and not to try to sow confusion and chaos. This is not fair to the voters. I think they deserve better behavior from politicians making sloppy allegations."

But while Namfrel had not noticed any sign of cheating on the precinct level, Luz said, canvassing on the municipal and provincial level was another story.

"So far, we see no pattern of cheating ... but the municipal level is a different matter altogether," he said.

His group could check cheating on the municipal and provincial levels against the election returns, Luz said, advising concerned politicians to compare numbers with Namfrel, "if they have it."

Burden on griping bets

Namfrel chair Jose Concepcion likewise placed the burden on the complaining candidates.

"If there's a massive cheating, let them prove it," Concepcion said. "There were instances of ballot snatching but there has been no deliberate attempt to cheat. It's not systematic."

Like Luz, Concepcion said political parties who had copies of the election results and who noticed discrepancies should turn their harsh eye on the municipal or provincial canvassing.

"That's the challenge that I'm really giving them," Concepcion said.

On their toes

The KNP has taken up the challenge.

In a news briefing, spokesperson Mike Romero said the party had started to document its complaints of fraud during the May 10 elections, and that it was bracing itself for more fraud.

KNP poll watchers had been alerted to stay on their guard, Romero said, especially now that canvassing was at the stage "when cheating could really take place."

For instance, Romero disclosed, former Rep. Lualhati Antonino told the KNP leadership that its "winning" candidate for congressman in Davao del Sur, Claude Tolentino, had been offered money in exchange for allowing the certificates of canvass there to be altered.

Romero said Tolentino's and other similar accounts would be turned over to KNP lawyers.

KNP senatorial candidate Juan Ponce Enrile, who attended the news briefing, cited another case in Pangasinan, where "a certain woman" went to see political officials and asked that "election documents" be changed.

"The officials refused," Enrile said. "Instead, they reported the matter to the bishop."

The KNP issued a statement detailing its accusation that the military had taken charge of ballot boxes in Maguindanao and deposited them at Camp Siongco in Awang town. "Only watchers from the administration Lakas party were allowed inside the camp to witness the canvassing," the statement said.

KNP "informants" also said an administration official went to Cebu with prepared electoral returns and ballots allegedly to be used in fraudulent canvassing.

Thus Romero said it was Namfrel's Luz who was "juvenile" and "irresponsible" for downplaying the opposition's protests.

Fuel to the fire

But Poe's outburst against the media on Tueday could have been fueled by reports allegedly received by his personal campaign manager, Sen. Vicento Sotto III, from ABS-CBN "insiders."

Sotto said the insiders told him that the network's "quick count" had deliberately started with returns from areas known to be the President's bailiwicks—Cebu, Iloilo, Bohol, Pampanga, and Agusan provinces—possibly to suggest a trend.

The network did not identify the source of the initial returns, Sotto noted. And then he added, the quick count was halted when Poe's votes started to come in.

But Sotto, who figured in Poe's celebrated tiffs with media men during the campaign, clarified that he was not accusing anyone and that he was just repeating what he heard. *Juliet Labog-Javellana, Carlito Pablo, Philip C. Tubeza, Christine O. Avendaño, and Reuters*

Sylvia Cancio
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May 15, Saturday 8:30 - 12:00 nn PASTAS and MORE - Learn how to make homemade pasta, Basic Tomato Sauce, Linguini Carbonara, Spaghetti Putanesca, Seafood Pasta, Penne a la Vodka, Lasagne P1300

May 15, Saturday 2 - 6- pm BASIC BAKING - A hands-on baking experience for beginners to learn the basics: from the proper way of measuring ingredients to the presentation of the finished products! Chiffon Cake: Coffee Crunch Cake, Sponge Cake: Strawberry and White Chocolate Trifle, Rich Butter Cake, Pie Crust: American Apple Pie. This course lays the foundation and covers all the basics. P 1500

May 17, Monday, 10 am - 2 pm BROWNIES GALORE - Chocolate Cheesecake Brownies, Capuccino Brownies, Kahlua Brownies, Chocolate Fudge Brownies , White Chocolate Pecan Brownies P1300

May 18, Tuesdays, 9 am - 2 pm CHEESECAKES - New York Cheesecake, Apple Pie with Streusel, Blueberry Cheesecake, No Bake Cheesecake, Oreo Cheesecake, Quiche Lorraine P1500

May 20, Thursday, 8:30 - 12:00 nn ASIAN COOKING - Hainanese Chicken Rice, Thai Springrolls, Chili Crab, Claypot Chicken Rice, Cha Gio (Vietnamese Spring Rolls, Chao Tom (Shrimp Mousse on Sugarcane, Braised Mushroom P 1,300

May 20, Thursday, 2 - 5 pm CHOCOLATE MOULDING CLASS Learn a fun and profitable hobby! Liqueur Chocolates, Rocky Road Bites, Chocolate Cream Cheese Cups, Rum Truffles, Coco Choco Pyramide, White Chocolate Truffles P 900

May 20, Thursday, 2 - 6 pm, ITALIAN COOKING Cheese-Stuffed Flour and Water Pancakes, Pasta Squares in Asparagus Cream, Salami Cheese and Chive Flatbread, Spaghetti with Bacon and Mushrooms, Panforte di Siena P1300

May 22, Saturday 8:30 am - 12: 30 pm BAKING 2 with Frostings, Fillings and Icings: Angel Food Cake with Fruit Compote, Carrot Cake with Cream Cheese Frosting, Genoise Ordinaire and Genoise Au Chocolat with Ganache and Crème Au Buerre, Roulade Suisse P1500

May 24 and 25, 9 am to 3 pm 2-DAY BREAD WORKSHOP - Gorgonzola Topped Pizza, Pain d'Epice (Spice Bread), Basic Foccacia (using sponge), Chocolate Babka, Toasted Walnut Batard, Semolina Bread with Golden Raisins, Russian Black Bread, Caraway Rye Bread, Brioche and Croissants P3,500

May 27 and 28 9 am to 4 pm, 2 DAY WEDDING CAKE WORKSHOP Learn how to decorate a Wedding Cake making use of Fondant or Buttercream Icing; the use of flavored syrups and different fillings. Learn how to use crimpers, make fondant ribbons and insertions. Make your own roses, catleyas, baby's breath and other filler flowers Includes Wedding Cake Assembly P 4,000

May 29, Saturday,8:30 - 12:30 pm BAKESHOP FAVOURITES - Lenguas de Gato, Soft Mamon, Maple-Nut Cinnamon Rolls, Taisan, Apple Upside Down Cake, Cheeserolls P 1300

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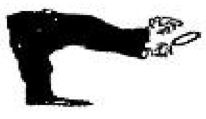

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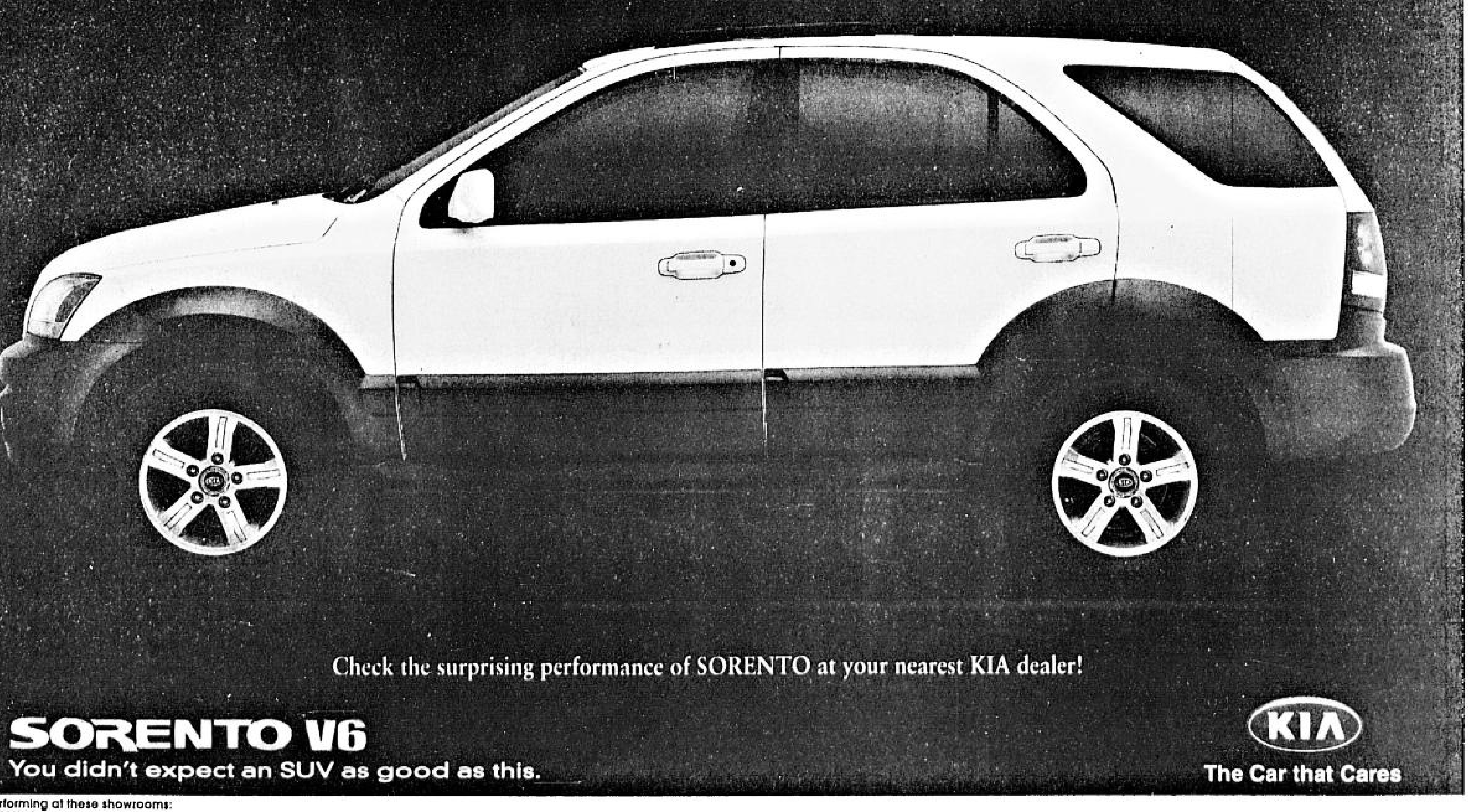

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ELEKSYON 2004

CORDILLERA ADMINISTRATIVE REGION (CAR)

ABRA
Namfrel as of 3 pm, 05/11/04

Governor

1	Valera, Vicente P.	18,735
2	Luna, Roger B.	5,786

Congressman
Namfrel as of 3 pm, 05/11/04

1	Bersamin, Luis, Jr. P.	21,460
2	Aquino, Carlos B.	519

BENGUET
Namfrel as of 4 pm, 05/12/04

Governor

1	Tabanda, Edna C.	40,721
2	Melchor, Borromeo P.	40,095
3	Tinda-an, Robert M.	21,686
4	Awal, Abundio M.	2,026

Congressman
Namfrel as of 4 pm, 05/12/04

1	Dangwa, Samuel M.	65,508
2	Molintas, Raul M.	38,575
3	Palaez, Bial A.	2,040
4	Guznian, Bedis B.	155

Congressman (Lone District of Baguio City)
Comelec as of 12 am, 05/12/04

1	Domogan, Mauricio G.	13,361
2	Tayengco, Thomas S.	585
3	Zamora, Imelda R.	387
4	Goyenechea, Luis S.	241

BAGUIO CITY
Comelec as of 12 am, 05/12/04

Mayor

1	Yaranon, Braulio D.	7,870
2	Vergara, Bernardo M.	3,580
3	Awla, Edgar M.	2,335
4	Cariño, Richard A.	1,565
5	Ramos, Felipe T.	36

IFUGAO

Governor

1	Baguilat, Teodoro, Jr. B.	0
2	Cappleman, Benjamin B.	0
3	Dangayo, Manuel P.	0
4	Kindipan, Alex D.	0

MOUNTAIN PROVINCE
Comelec as of 2.30 pm, 05/12/04
57 out of 592 precints

Governor

1	Mayaen, Leonard G.	6,702
2	Dalog, Maximo B.	6,499
3	Malinias, Sario M.	3,515
4	Dominguez, Harry C.	3,018

Congressman

1	Daoas, David A.	7,326
2	Dominguez, Victor S.	5,432
3	Pilando, Roy S.	3,891
4	Wooden, Anthony D.	2,856
5	Liwanen, Emilio M	20

REGION 1

ILOCOS NORTE
PPCRV/Namfrel as of 12 PM, 05/12/04
709 out of 1485 precints

Governor

1	Marcos, Ferdinand, Jr. R.	123,922

Congressman (District 1)
PPCRV/Namfrel as of 05/12/04
332 out of 761 precints

1	Ablan, Roque, Jr. R. 28.771	
2	Sales, Reynolan	21,641

Congressman (District 2)
PPCRV-Namfrel as of 12 pm, 05/12/04

1	Imee R. Marcos	71,970

LAOAG CITY
PPCRV/Namfrel as of 5 pm, 05/11/04

Mayor

1	Fariñas, Michael V.	3,074
2	Domingo, Edward P. 2,727	

ILOCOS SUR
Comelec/Namfrel as of 05/12/04
24 out of 32 towns

Governor

1	Singson, Luis C.	56,493
2	Rafanan, Efren A.	39,029

Congressman (District 1)

1	Baterina, Salacnib F.	27,642
2	Tajon, Mariano M.	10,579

Congressman (District 2)

1	Singson, Eric D.	81,836
2	Antolin, Ernesto N.	1,959

LA UNION
Namfrel as of 4:30 pm, 05/11/04

Governor

1	Ortega, Victor francisco C.	30,654
2	Dumpit, Thomas, Jr. DL.	7,972

Congressman (District 1)

1	Ortega, Manuel C.	23,077
2	Dumpit, Erwin A.	5,307

Congressman (District 2)

1	Dumpit, Tomas M.	2,208
2	Bacumay, Henry, Jr. A.	1,239

SAN FERNANDO CITY

Mayor

1	Ortega, Mary Jane C.	34,071
2	Flores, Godofredo A.	4,311

PANGASINAN
Comelec as of 4 pm, 05/12/04

Governor

1	Agbayani, Victor Aguedo E.	55,427
2	Goco, Marietta P.	5,097

Congressman (District 6)
Comelec as of 4 pm, 05/12/04

1	Estrella, Conrado III M.	22,709
2	Bince, Alfonso, Jr. C.	13,046

ALAMINOS CITY
PPCRV Complete returns as of 05/12/04

Mayor

1	Braganza, Hernani A.	21,032
2	Garcia, Arturo R.	6,916

DAGUPAN CITY
PPCRV Complete returns as of 05/12/04

Mayor

1	Lim, Benjie S.	38,935
2	Manaois, Teodoro C.	26,118

SAN CARLOS CITY
Mayor's Office count, incomplete returns as of 05/12/04

Mayor

1	Cagampan, Ansberto Baltazar L.	39,142
2	Resuello, Julian V.	13,719

URDANETA CITY

REGION 2

CAGAYAN
Namfrel as of 9 pm, 05/11/04

Governor

1	Lara, Edgar R.	131,248
2	Fausto, Leonides N.	30,231
3	Perez, Jose A.	940
4	Delos Santos, Joven P.	664

Congressman (District 1)

1	Ponce Enrile, Juan, Jr. C.	28,599
2	Padilla, Victor I.	16,365

Congressman (District 2)

1	Vargas, Florencio L.	19,184
2	Layus, Celia T.	19,039
3	Ramos, Lazaro U.	1,300
4	Salvatera, Norma D.	456

Congressman (District 3)

1	Mamba, Manuel N.	40,613
2	Ting, Delfin T.	39,979

TUGUEGARAO CITY
Namfrel as of 9 pm, 05/11/04

Mayor

1	Ting, Randolph S.	12,357
2	Collado, Lucio S.	1,400
3	Santos, Bernabe M.	

ISABELA
Comelec as of 1:40 pm, 05/12/04

Governor

1	Padaca, Maria Gracia Cielo M.	123,079
2	Dy, Faustino, Jr. S	102,956

Congressman (District 1)

1	Albano, Rodolfo III T.	22,654
2	Marallag, Francisco V.	9,698

Congressman (District 2)
Comelec as of 1:40 pm, 05/12/04

1	Uy, Edwin C.	30,320
2	Calderon, Benito R.	19,960

Congressman (District 3)
Comelec as of 1:40 pm, 05/12/04

1	Dy, Faustino III DG.	29,728
2	Chan, Carlos	9,916

Congressman (District 4)

1	Miranda, Anthony C.	21,374
2	Aggabao, Giorgidi B.	19,426

CAUAYAN CITY
Namfrel as of 05/12/04

Mayor

1	Dy, Cesar DG.	23,551
2	Felipe, Marianito, Jr.	10,461

SANTIAGO CITY

Mayor

1	Navarro, Amelita S.	10,471
2	Miranda, Jose C.	8,315

NUEVA VIZCAYA
Comelec as of 3 pm, 05/12/04

Governor

1	Perez, Leonardo Byron R.	24,282
2	Cuaresma, Luisa L.	22,848
3	Salun-at, Ernesto S.	15,677

Congressman
Comelec as of 3 pm, 05/12/04

1	Agbayani, Rodolfo Q.	27,944
2	Lantion, Thompson C.	21,292
3	Padilla, Ruth R.	16,579

REGION 3

BATAAN
Namfrel as of 05/12/04

Governor

1	Garcia, Enrique Jr. T.	21,089
2	Roque, Rogelio G.	19,261
3	Gonzales, Zenaida B.	1,011

Congressman (Dist 1)

1	Roman, Antonino P.	11,701
2	Ferrer, Gaudencio C.	9,749

Congressman (Dist 2)

1	Garcia, Albert S.	13,066
2	Roman, Leonardo B.	12,343

BULACAN
Namfrel as of 05/12/04

Governor

1	Dela Cruz, Josefina M.	69,073
2	Maganto, Romeo E.	3,091

Congressman (District 1)
Namfrel as of 05/12/04

1	Sy-Alvarado, Wilhelmino M.	33,830
2	Ople, Raul V.	11,924

Congressman (District 2)

1	Pancho, Pedro M.	19,093
2	Vilarama, Wilfrido B.	13,075

NUEVA ECIJA
Namfrel as of 4 pm, 05/12/04

Governor

1	Villareal, Julita L.	42,219
2	Joson, Tomas III N.	39,949

PAMPANGA
Namfrel as of 12 pm, 05/12/04
2254 out of 5,395 precincts

Governor

1	Lapid, Mark T.	168,268
2	Bondoc, Juan Pablo P.	83,921
3	Ducut, Zenaida C.	74,514
4	Arroño, Clark Field III C.	1,629

Congressman (District 1)
Namfrel as of 12 pm, 05/12/04

1	Nepomuceno, Francis L.	77,015
2	Lazatin, Janet Rita B.	52,857

Congressman (District 2)
Namfrel as of 12 pm, 05/12/04

1	Arroyo, Juan Miguel M.	105,483
2	Lapid, Remberto M.	14,186

Congressman (District 3)
Namfrel as of 12 pm, 05/12/04

1	Aquino, Reynaldo B.	35,489
2	Labung, Ferdinand P.	26,364
3	Domingo, Rolando Enrique D.	24,849

Congressman (District 4)
Namfrel as of 12 pm, 05/12/04

1	Bondoc, Anna York P.	37,399
2	Ocampo, Ramsey L.	22,374
3	Maglanque, Rene E.	21,990
4	Laxa, Antonio D.	412

Mayor (Angeles City)

1	Lazatin, Carmelo F.	55,211
2	Nepomuceno, Robin L.	45,837

Mayor (San Fernando City)
Namfrel as of 12 pm, 05/12/04

1	Rodriguez, Oscar S.	12,205
2	Domingo, Andrea D.	10,274
3	Lagman, Eligio H.	7,784
4	Henson, Rosve V.	2,571

TARLAC
Comelec as of 4 PM, 05/12/04
90 out of 2,876 precints

Governor

1	Yap, Jose Villa A.	9,797
2	Apostol, Isaias M.	2,634

Congressman (District 1)

1	Teodoro, Gilberto Jr. C.	10,170

ZAMBALES
Namfrel as of 10 am, 05/12/04

Governor

1	Magsaysay, Vicente P.	51,526
2	Montalla, Cheryl D.	40,610
3	Perez, Ferdinand A.	97

Congressman (District 1)

1	Magsaysay, Maria Milagros H.	37,779
2	Gordon, Katherine H.	30,235
3	Dela Llana, Loretta P.	634
4	Owen, Teodora L.	86

Congressman (District 2)

1	Diaz, Antonio M.	32,215
2	Mendaros, Edwin DV.	20,460
3	Torres, Ruben D.	19,523

Mayor (Olongapo City)

1	Gordon, James J.	58,843
2	Malabute, Giderbert P.	12,471
3	Antiporta, Agustin Sr. D.	180

REGION 4-A

BATANGAS
Namfrel as of 4 pm, 05/11/04

Governor

1	Apacible, Rosario M.	44,404
2	Sanchez, Armando C.	28,950
3	Perez, Hernando B	23,946
4	Hernandez, Nicomedes F.	7,443
5	Mandanas, Marcos Jr. M.	3,265
6	Abenza, Arturo A.	441
7	Samson, Rojelo C.	149

Congressman (District 1)

1	Buhain, Elenita Milagros E.	45,190
2	Ilao, Isidro I.	3,154
3	Mendoza, Victor P.	1,384
4	Limjoco, Albert I.	204
5	Laparan, Rolando S.	189

Congressman (District 2)

1	Mandanas, Hermillando I.	1,257

Congressman (District 3)

1	Reyes, Victoria H.	10,055
2	Bathan, Carlos A.	3,146
3	Nora, Gregorio S.	1,296
4	Santillan, Jonathan W.	315

Congressman (District 4)

1	Gozos, Oscar L.	24,021
2	Linatoc, Donato O.	5,396
3	Recto, Ramon A.	2,281
4	Llanes, Modesto Jr. B.	43

CAVITE

Mayor (Trece Martirez City)
Namfrel as of 2.25 pm, 05/11/04

1	Colonado, Benigno P.	25,691
2	Panganiban, Prudencio M.	15,446
3	De Sagun, Melencio Jr. L.	2,346

LAGUNA
Namfrel as of 2:25 pm, 05/11/04

Governor

1	San Luis, Rodolfo S.	30,095
2	Fernandez, Danilo Ramon S.	17,093
3	Lazaro, Teresita S.	2,648

Congressman (District 1)

1	Matibag, Melvin A.	61
2	Joaquin, Uliran T.	1

Congressman (District 2)

1	Chipeco, Justin SB.	31,913
2	Ilag, Leodegario M.	5,289
3	Lajara, Severino J.	319

Congressman (District 3)

1	Manicad, Conrado L.	189
2	Bueser, Danton O.	1

Congressman (District 4)

1	Caballes, Loule T.	1,055
2	Agarao, Benjamin Jr. C	126

Mayor (Calamba City)
Namfrel as of 2.56 pm, 05/11/04

1	Chipeco, Joaquin M.	20,693
2	Lajara, Saturnino J.	722

Mayor (San Pablo City)

1	Amante, Vicente B.	33,495
2	Aquino, Florante L.	20,693
3	Millares, Arsenio R.	16,229
4	Cosico, Alfredo B.	811

QUEZON

Congressman (District 4)

1	Yap-Diangco, Robert T.	10,653
2	Villaseñor, Efren M.	9,175
3	Tañada, Lorenzo III R.	736
4	Rabaya, Vicente Jr. D.	

RIZAL
AMA as of 5:53 pm, 05/11/04

Governor

1	Ynares, Casimiro Jr. M.	31,524
2	Rodriguez, Jovita C.	11,329
3	Oliva, Romeo A.	3,307

Mayor (Antipolo City)
AMA as of 5:53 pm, 05/11/04

1	Say, Susana G.	18,889
2	Gatlabayan, Angelito C.	14,159
3	Bulanon, Silverio G.	705

REGION 4-B

OCCIDENTAL MINDORO
Namfrel as of 1.05 pm, 05/11/04

Governor

1	Sato, Josephine R.	8,318
2	Villarosa, Jose T.	4,820

Congressman

1	Villarosa, Ma. Amelita C.	5,588
2	Quintos, Ricardo V.	4,574
3	Medalla, Pedro, Jr. O.	2,591

ORIENTAL MINDORO
Namfrel as of 12 20 pm, 05/11/04

Governor

1	Marasigan, Bartolome, Sr. L.	26,282
2	Venturanza, Thaddeus E.	20,535
3	Andaya, Manuel DG	

Congressman (District 1)
Namfrel as of 12 20 pm, 05/11/04

1	Valencia, Rodolfo G.	8,707
2	Leviste, Juan Renato V.	7,837
3	Turano, Ligorio A.	1,197
4	Navarro, Enrico B.	
5	Valenton, Elias A.	

Congressman (District 2)

1	Punzalan, Jesus M.	6,921
2	Umali, Alfonso, Jr. V.	6,559
3	Soller, Prudente D.	2,471

Mayor (Calapan City)
Namfrel as of 3.23 pm, 05/11/04

1	Ramirez, Gil G.	2,968
2	Leachon, Paulino Salvador C.	2,712
3	Brucal, Carlos B.	2,233
4	Ignacio, Raymundo A.	1,893
5	Leviste, Charity P.	1,883

PALAWAN
Namfrel as of 5.30 pm, 05/11/04

Governor

1	Reyes, Mario Joel T.	16,051
2	Sandoval, Vicente A.	8,754
3	Ortega, Gerardo V.	5,808

Congressman (District 2)

1	Mitra, Abraham Kahlil B.	24,636
2	Gastanes, Edwin B.	4,205
3	Estolano, Cesar A.	

Mayor (Puerto Princesa City)

1	Hagedorn, Edward S.	21,384
2	Socrates, Dennis M.	10,746

REGION 5

ALBAY
Namfrel as of 2 pm, 05/11/04

Governor

1	Bichara, Alfonso P.	12,988
2	Gonzales, Fernando V.	12,936
3	Manzanilla, Remedios S.	3,838
4	Sael, Brando M.	3,511
5	Llamas, Sotero P.	959

Congressman (District 1)

1	Lagman, Edcel C	8,760
2	Gutierrez, Patria Matias C.	1,518

Congressman (District 2)

1	Imperial, Carlos DR.	13,513
2	Los Baños, Efren O.	8,304

Congressman (District 3)

1	Salceda, Jose Ma. Clemente S.	291
2	Reonisto, Lucia G.	4
3	Baliano, Juanito Juan, Jr. A.	1
4	Salle, Roberto S.	

Mayor (Legazpi City)

1	Rosal, Noel E.	11,816
2	Imperial, Michael Victor C.	7,982

Mayor (Ligao City)
Namfrel as of 3 pm, 05/11/04

1	Gonzales, Linda P.	3,375
2	Bichara, Stephen DC.	3,162

CAMARINES SUR
Namfrel as of 6 pm, 05/11/04

Governor

1	Villafuerte, Luis Raymund, Jr. F.	9,584
2	Alfelor, Emmanuel R.	8,264
3	Fuentebella, Felix William B.	2,265

Congressman (District 4)

1	Alfelor, Felix, Jr. R.	10,929
2	Papin, Imelda A.	8,525
3	Trinidad, Mariano S.	155

CATANDUANES
Namfrel as of 5 pm, 05/11/04

Governor

1	Verceles, Leandro, Jr. B.	22,104
2	Cua, Joseph C.	16,542

Congressman
Namfrel as of 4 pm, 05/11/04

1	Santiago, Joseph A.	20,428
2	Wong, Araceli B.	16,963
3	Sanchez, Hector S.	3,931
4	Traballo, Cenon, Jr. T.	269

MASBATE
Namfrel as of 12 nn, 05/11/04

Governor

1	Kho, Antonio T.	5,578
2	Seachon, Fausto, Jr. L.	4,811
3	Villar, Smante R.	20
4	Abubakar, Salem B.	7

Mayor (Masbate City)

1	Tuason, Socrates M.	4,642
2	Sanchez, Juan, Sr. P.	3,818

REGION 6

AKLAN
Namfrel as of 12noon, 5/12/04
171 of 1813 precincts

Governor

1	Marquez, Carlito S.	10,144
2	Fernandez, Efren O.	3,661
3	Ramos, Victoria M.	8,661

Congressman

1	Calizo, Gabrielle V.	12,907
2	Miraflores, Florencio T.	1,813

ANTIQUE
Namfrel as of 1:15pm, 5/12/04
283 of 1249 precincts

Governor

1	Perez, Salvacion Z.	22,873
2	Operiano, Roberto Q.	18,143

Congressman

1	Javier, Exequiel B.	20,707
2	Plameras, Jovito, Jr. C.	18,829
3	Mallares, Narzal B.	1,770

CAPIZ
Namfrel as of 3pm, 5/12/04

Governor

1	Bermejo, Vicente B.	18,462
2	Amoroso, Zenon E.	318

Congressman (District 1)

1	Dadivas, Rodriguez D.	13,448
2	Borda, Jose E.	5,421
3	Altavas, Rey Antonio Jose S.	1,001

Congressman (District 2)

1	Castro, Fredenil H. (unopposed)	

Mayor (Roxas City)
Namfrel as of 3pm, 5/12/04

1	Del Rosario, Antonio A.	15,944
2	Belo, Matilde S.	6,393

GUIMARAS
Namfrel as of 1:15pm, 5/12/04
147 of 352 precincts

Governor

1	Nava, Joaquin Carlos	22,493
2	Fernandez, Arturo V.	3,366

Congressman

1	Zambarrano, Rogelio B.	13,137
2	Espinosa, Edgar T.	10,620
3	Maque, Bernie G.	2,972

ILOILO
Namfrel as of 2pm, 5/12/04
926 of 1139 precincts

Governor

1	Tupas, Niel, Sr. D.	10,868
2	Garin, Oscar G.	5,468
3	Gil, Norbert P.	15

Congressman (Iloilo City)
Namfrel as of 2pm, 5/12/04

1	Gonzales, Raul, Jr. T.	55,170
2	Malabor, Mansueto A.	51,149
3	Lopez-Vito, Rafael J.	21,621
4	Gerochi, Romeo P.	10,090
5	Carreon, Carmelo DL.	936
6	Espinosa, Pascual, Jr. R.	200
7	Alcarde, Francis M.	110
8	Gaje, Juanito L.	71

Congressman (District 4)
Namfrel as of 2pm, 5/12/04
103 of 8150 precincts

1	Biron, Ferjenel G.	10,886
2	Palmares, Jesry T.	5,859

Mayor (Iloilo City)
Namfrel as of 2 pm, 5/12/04

1	Treñas, Jerry P.	114,383
2	Facultad, Victor V.	20,175
3	Sarabia, Ma. Rita B.	4,927
4	Ang, Vicente P.	152

NEGROS OCCIDENTAL
Namfrel as of 4am, 5/12/04
327 of 5543 precincts

Governor

1	Marañon, Joseph G.	38,492
2	Locsin, Delia Ediltrudes S.	5,934

Congressman (Bacolod City)
Namfrel as of 4am, 5/12/04
233 of 1281 precincts

1	Puentevella, Monico D.	14,902
2	Orola, Juan, Jr. N.	10,423
3	Baribar, Archie S.	3,048
4	Amadora, Jose Maria G.	51

Congressman (District 2)

1	Marañon, Alfredo III (unopposed)	

Congressman (District 3)

1	Lacson, Jose Carlos (unopposed)	

Congressman (District 4)
Namfrel as of 4am, 5/12/04
46 of 921 precincts

1	Cojuangco, Carlos O.	3,870
2	Colmenares, Paolo J.	1,255
3	Dilag, Larry K.	122
4	Marquiño, Francisco P.	5

Congressman (District 5)
Namfrel as of 4am, 5/12/04
134 of 997 precincts

1	Arroyo, Ignacio T.	9,069
2	Mirasol, Alejandro Y.	5,303
3	Lozada, Jose Apolinario, Jr. L.	3,579

Congressman (District 6)

1	Alvarez, Genaro Rafael III (unopposed)	

Mayor (Bacolod City)
Namfrel as of 4am, 5/12/04
233 of 1281 precincts

1	Leonardia, Evelio R.	13,811
2	Valdez, Luzviminda S.	13,151
3	Flor, Celia Matea R.	2,002
4	San Joaquin, Benito D.	132
5	Quirino, Julio G.	29

Mayor (Bago City)
Nmafrel as of 4am, 5/12/04
46 of 377 precincts

1	Torres, Janet E.	3,835
2	Camposano, Jorge A.	2,400
3	Gador, Luis, Jr. A.	25

Mayor (Himamaylan City)
Namfrel as of 4am, 5/12/04
80 of 283 precincts

1	Bascon, Carminia G.	6,523
2	Tongson, Rogelio, Sr. Q.	3,906

Mayor (Silay City)
Namfrel as of 4am, 5/12/04
119 of 311 precincts

1	Montelibano, Jose L.	6,353
2	Gamban, Carlo V.	6,266
3	Velez, Edwin D.	4,258

REGION 7

BOHOL
Namfrel as of 3pm, 5/11/04

100 of 188 precincts in Tagbilaran City

Governor

1	Relampagos, Rene L.	8,483
2	Aumentado, Erico B.	7,399
3	Peligrino, Peter B.	40

Congressman (District 1)

1	Chatto, Edgardo M	13,167
2	Castillo, Natalio, Jr. R.	163

Mayor (Tagbilaran City)
Namfrel as of 3pm, 5/11/04
100 of 188 precincts

1	Lim, Dan N.	6,793
2	Torralba, Alberta C.	5,594
3	Cabalit, Jorge D.	4,276
4	Monton, Nemesio C.	12
5	Piazarras, Salvador S.	12

CEBU
Namfrel as of 3:02pm, 5/12/04
1,751 of 13,253 precincts

Governor

1	Garcia, Gwendolyn F.	41,926
2	Martinez, Celestino, Jr. E.	38,472
3	Osmeña, John Henry U.	17,129
4	Cezar, Rafael, Jr. A.	703
5	Tuadles, Welfredo B.	416

Congressman (District 1)
Namfrel as of 3:02pm, 5/12/04
59 of 1682 precincts

1	Gullas, Eduardo R.	4,059
2	Rama, Enrique P.	2,234
3	Bolongaita, Alex A.	95
4	Lozada, Jose Mari C.	72

Congressman (District 2)
Namfrel as of 3:02pm, 5/12/04
120 of 1535 precincts

1	Kintanar, Simeon L.	6,264
2	Ortega, Orvi G.	3,576

Congressman (District 3)
Namfrel as of 3pm, 5/12/04
164 of 1,417 precincts

1	Yapha, Antonio, Jr. P.	12,881
2	Cerna, Jesus P.	967

Congressman (District 4)
Namfrel as of 3pm, 5/12/04
122 of 1,568 precincts

1	Martinez, Clavel A.	9,426
2	Salazar, Edwin F.	330

Congressman (District 5)
Namfrel as of 3pm, 5/12/04
132 of 1709 precincts

1	Durano, Joseph Felix Mari H.	6,935
2	Dira, Rosemarie D.	3,250

Congressman (District 6)
Namfrel as of 3pm, 5/12/04
410 of 2314 precincts

1	Ruiz, Nerissa S.	24,164
2	Ouano, Jovita Tuela Z.	18,887
3	Biaño, Victor C.	1,173

Congressman (Cebu City, District 1)
Namfrel-Ccimpel as of 3pm, 5/12/04
316 of 1139 precincts

1	Del Mar, Raul V.	30,319
2	Fernan, Danilo M.	2,633
3	Villarin, Florencio O.	605
4	Arenasa, Juan U.	525
5	Fernan, Russo C.	112

Congressman (Cebu City, District 2)
Namfrel-Ccimpel as of 3pm, 5/12/04
428 of 1535 precincts

1	Cuenco, Antonio V.	20,548
2	Batuhan, Aristotle B.	17,590
3	Ong, Manuel F.	7

Mayor (Cebu City)
Namfrel as of 3 02pm, 5/12/04
744 of 2674 precincts

1	Osmeña, Tomas R.	42,583
2	Garcia, Alvin B.	33,811
3	Burlas, Ananias T.	218

NEGROS ORIENTAL
Comelec as of 3 50pm, 5/12/04
426 of 3035 precincts

Governor

1	Arnaiz, George P.	45,833
2	Tayhon, Lorenzo R.	396

Congressman (District 1)
Comelec as of 3 50pm, 5/12/04
86 of 956 precincts

1	Paras, Jacinto V.	7,951
2	Rabaya, Vicente B.	1,396
3	Vailoces, Auster A.	133
4	Roble, Danilo C.	34

Congressman (District 2)
Comelec as of 3 50pm, 5/12/04
47 of 1182 precincts

1	Macias, Emilio II C.	3,962
2	Remollo, Orlando V.	3,009
3	Torres, Samuel B.	13
4	Aniñon, Raul S.	6

Congressman (District 3)

Comelec / partial official as of 3.50 pm, 05/12/04
126 of 883 precincts

1	Teves, Herminio G.	11,319
2	Teves, Edgar Y.	4,627

Mayor (Dumaguete City)
Namfrel as of 9am, 5/11/04
64 precincts

1	Perdices, Agustin R.	4,680
2	Maquiling, Woodrow, Sr. S.	2,590
3	Remollo, Antonio J.	424

SIQUIJOR
Namfrel as of 12 noon, 05/12/04

Governor

1	Vila, Dean S.	7,546
2	Fua, Orlando B.	7,272
3	Chan, Arthur M.	394

Congressman
Namfrel as of 12 noon, 05/12/04

1	Fua, Orlando, Jr. A.	7,920
2	Olpoc, Epifanio, Jr. S.	6,956
3	Chan, Joy Dominie U.	112
4	Flor, Jesus J.	6

REGION 8

EASTERN SAMAR
Namfrel as of 4 pm, 05/12/04
513 of 1567 precincts

Governor

1	Evardone, Ben P.	23,941
2	Salazar, Clotilde J.	14,466
3	Ambil, Ruperto, Jr. A.	7,729
4	Castillo, Jose P.	113

Congressman

1	Libanan, Marcelino C.	30,821
2	Ramirez, Jose T.	10,655
3	Montes, Roy S.	3,245

LEYTE
Namfrel as of 12:45 pm, 05/12/04
440 of 4431 precincts

Governor

1	Apostol, Sergio Antonio F.	13,668
2	Petilla, Carlos Jericho L.	10,363
3	Larrazabal, Adolfo E.	516
4	Sotto, Roberto C.	281
5	Pagayanan, Hermela P.	167

Congressman (District 1)
Namfrel as of 12 45 pm, 05/12/04

1	Petilla, Remedios L.	14,356
2	Avila, Charlie	5,180

Congressman (District 2)
Namfrel as of 12 45 pm, 05/12/04

1	Apostol, Trinidad G.	2,285
2	Villasin, Nestor P.	1,755
3	Horca, Manuel, Jr. L.	62

Mayor (Tacloban City)
Namfrel as of 2 45 pm, 05/12/04
220 of 457 precincts

1	Romualdez, Alfredo T.	17,247
2	Chan, Wilson L.	3,472
3	Sipaco, Renato O.	308
4	Chan, Edmund T.	212
5	Abrematea, Nestor L.	180

NORTHERN SAMAR
Namfrel as of 9 am, 05/12/04
610 of 1792 precincts

Governor

1	Daza, Raul A.	71,308
2	Balanquit, Sixto, Jr. T.	17,369
3	Morales, Teddy L.	670
4	Cabocang, Serafin, Jr. C.	595

Congressman (District 1)
Namfrel as of 9 am, 05/12/04
610 of 1792 precincts

1	Abayon, Harlin C.	49,366
2	Tagle, Pedrito O.	1,784
3	Ong, Nelson L.	743
4	Cinco, Rosendo C.	0

Congressman (District 2)
Namfrel as of 9 am, 05/12/04

1	Viconcio, Romualdo T.	22,263
2	Abalon, Don L.	13,579
3	Lobos, Pete S.	102

SOUTHERN LEYTE

Governor
Namfrel as of 12 noon, 05/12/04
9 out of 19 towns and 1 city

1	Lerias, Rosette Y.	43,126
2	Saludo, Ma. Salvacion D.	17,155

Congressman
Namfrel as of 12 noon, 05/12/04

9 towns and 1 city out of 19 towns and 1 city

1	Mercado, Roger G.	40,929
2	Saludo, Aniceto, Jr. G.	23,801
3	Geraldo, Vicente A.	44

Mayor (Maasin City)

1	Mercado, Damian G.	3,215
2	Yusingco, Helen Fernandez	380

REGION 9

ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR
Namfrel as of 2:25pm, 5/12/04
256 precincts

Governor

1	Cadallo, Gadiel P.	21
2	Vera Cruz, Romeo G.	16,654
3	Cerilles, Aurora E.	15,799
4	Polon, Fernando M.	38

Congressman (Zamboanga City)
Namfrel as of 3:07pm, 5/12/04

1	Fabian, Erico Basilio A.	78,731
2	Dalipe, Manuel A.	60,064
3	Camins, Reinerio C.	10,684

Congressman (District 1)
Namfrel as of 2:25pm, 5/12/04
256 precincts

1	Real, Isidoro, Jr. E.	13922
2	Saniel, Rogelio J.	9280
3	Lim, Merlita O.	190

Congressman (District 2)

1	San Juan, Filomena S.	3742
2	Cerilles, Antonio H.	3501
3	Banghulot, Joseph B.	1

Mayor (Pagadian City)

1	Co, Samuel S.	
2	Del Socorro, Isidro DS.	
3	Dogon, Henrito G.	
4	Pajares, Joaquin G.	

Mayor (Zamboanga City)
Namfrel as of 3.07pm, 5/12/04

1	Lobregat, Celso L.	79747
2	Wee, Oee Ping L.	47459
3	Mariano, Charlie M.	34254
4	Guardian, Alejandro G.	622
5	Angkaya, Abdusalam P.	332

REGION 10

BUKIDNON
Namfrel as of 12:05pm
449 precincts

Governor

1	Zubiri, Jose Ma., Jr. R.	50,374
2	Tablos, Ernesto N.	7,124
3	Catane, Wilhelmina S.	2,589
4	Valendez, Joel L.	349
5	Kiniman, Alfredo S.	53

Congressman (District 1)

1	Pancrudo, Candido, Jr. P.	7,297
2	Acosta, JR Nereus O.	5,717
3	Onahon, Daniel S.	303

Congressman (District 2)

1	Tilanduca, Reginaldo N.	15,136
2	Guingona, Teofisto III DL.	12,092
3	Beltran, Nemesio G.	4,316
4	Ancheta, Berthobal R.	2,883

Congressman (District 3)

1	Zubiri, Juan Miguel F.	9,700
2	Gardonez, Fabian A	506

Mayor (Malaybalay City)

1	Flores, Florencio, Jr. T.	24,703
2	Jurolan, Nicolas C.	11,687

Mayor (Valencia City)
Namfrel as of 11.30am, 5/12/04
360 precincts

1	Galario, Jose, Jr. M	28,254
2	Catarata, Leandro Jose H.	23,723

CAMIGUIN
Comelec as of 3pm, 5/11/04

Governor

1	Romualdo, Pedro P.	23,190
2	Gabucan, Jose Antonio G.	4,885

Congressman

1	Romualdo, Jesus Jurdin M.	22,837
2	Neri-Brandt, Ma. Esperanza	4,725
3	Zulueta, Alberto, Jr. C.	1,252
4	Neri, Faustino, Jr. M.	-

LANAO DEL NORTE
Comelec as of 1.45pm, 5/12/04

Governor

1	Dimaporo, Imelda Q.	24,733
2	Mangotara, Abdullah S.	10,924
3	Angni, Ibrahim	-
4	Abdulmalik G.	-

Congressman (District 1)
Namfrel as of 10 30 am, 5/12/04

1	Badelles, Alipio Cirilo V.	48,027
2	Quijano, Thomas Dean M.	14,239
3	Jumao-as, Ferdinand V.	267
4	Siangco, Michael V.	92
5	Relova, Warlino M.	72
6	Baunto, Omar A.	70

Mayor (Iligan City)
Namfrel as of 10 30am, 5/12/04

1	Cruz, Lawrence L.	21,748
2	Quijano, Franklin M.	12,645

MISAMIS ORIENTAL

Congressman (Lone District)
Namfrel as of 3pm, 5/12/04

1	Jaraula, Constantino G.	64,421
2	Ravanera, Manuel R.	4,431
3	Jaudian, Manuel V.	2,934
4	De Jesus, Flordeliza E.	741
5	Aseñero, Rodolfo L.	218

Mayor (Cagayan de Oro City)
Namfrel as of 3pm, 5/12/04

1	Emano, Vicente Y.	82,305
2	Soriano, Antonio	40,830
3	Tamondong, Eddie U.	5,040
4	Borres, Felix Jr. F.	243
5	Lagrimas, Leodegario A.	139
6	Baygan, Herminigilda V.	103
7	Daleon, Jose Jr. N.	52

REGION 11

COMPOSTELA VALLEY
Namfrel as of 3.45pm, 5/12/04

Governor

1	Caballero, Jose R.	40,410
2	Tirol, Trino G	16,822
3	Pajarito, Rodrigo Sr. Y	20

Congressman (District 1)

1	Zamora, Manuel E.	10,748
2	Basañes, Raul B.	4,530

Congressman (District 2)

1	Amatong, Prospero S.	15,585
2	Gonzaga, Ruwel Peter S.	1,886

DAVAO DEL NORTE
as of 1 pm, 5/12/04
184 precincts

Governor

1	Gementiza, Gelacio P.	20,680
2	Sebastian, Roberto S.	4,220
3	Concepcion, Danilo R.	89
4	Adaim, Alejandro T.	52

Congressman (District 1)

1	Olaño, Arrel R.	14,268
2	Alvarez, Pantaleon D.	13,707
3	Sator, Baltazar A.	1,023

Congressman (District 2)

1	Floirendo, Antonio Jr. R (unoppposed)	

Mayor (Island Garden City of Samal)
Namfrel as of 3.49pm, 5/11/04
72 precincts

1	Antalan, Rogelio P.	10,984
2	Durano, Susan A.	7,222
3	Sugabo, Aurelio Sr. C.	428
4	Delcampo, Rogelio N.	300

Mayor (Panabo City)
Namfrel as of 2 pm, 5/12/04

1	Gavina, Rey P.	31,195
2	Adlaon, Rudy G.	5,608
3	Ugdang, Nellie T.	1,832
4	Bucio, Marnie M.	12

Mayor (Tagum City)
as of 1 pm, 5/12/04
187 precincts

1	Uy, Chiong Oy T.	14,268
2	Suaybaguio, Victorio Jr. R.	13,707

DAVAO DEL SUR
Namfrel as of 3 39pm, 5/12/04
1077 precincts

Governor

1	Llanos, Fe E.	76,648
2	Bautista, Benjamin Jr. P.	66,096
3	Roldan, Carlos M.	773

Congressman (District 1)
as of 3.30pm
923 precincts

1	Cagas, Douglas Ra.	105,661
2	Almendras, Mina K.	12,840
3	Villaber, Pablo C.	3,382

Congressman (District 2)

1	Bautista, Claude P.	10,349
2	Carrillo, Dominador F.	5,599

Congressman (District 1, Davao City)
Namfrel as of 10am, 5/12/04

1	Nograles, Prospero C.	126,680

Congressman (District 2, Davao City)

1	Garcia, Vincent DJ.	79,303
2	Lumain, Joselito G.	12,159
3	Badilles, Teofilo A.	1,887

Congressman (District 3, Davao City)

1	Lopez, Ruy Elias C.	62,735
2	Marañon, Teresita M.	15,148
3	Sang-an, Ruben V.	196

Mayor (Davao City)

1	Duterte, Rodrigo R.	235,347
2	De Guzman, Benjamin C.	118,769
3	Marcellones, Magdaleno Jr.	204
4	Pablico, Rudy C.	107
5	Satera, Henry S.	84

Mayor (Digos City)
as of 5/11/04

1	Latasa, Arsenio A.	6,090

DAVAO ORIENTAL
Namfrel as of 2pm, 5/12/04

Governor

1	Almario, Thelma Z.	23,220
2	Palma Gil, Maria Elena T.	15,149

Congressman (District 1)

1	Malanyaon, Corazon N. (unopposed)	

Congressman (District 2)

1	Almario, Joel Mayo Z.	19,777
2	Rabat, Carlo Luis P.	18,551

REGION 12

SARANGANI

Governor

1	Dominguez, Paul Rene G.	13,477
2	Escobar, Miguel D.	8,988

Congressman
Namfrel as of 11am, 5/12/04

1	Chiongbian, Erwin L.	12,918
2	Domino, Juan	10,580

SOUTH COTABATO

Congressman (District 1)
Namfrel as of 11am, 5/12/04

1	Antonio-Custodio, Darlene R.	64,411
2	Nuñez, Dioscoro O.	14,870

Mayor (General Santos City)
Namfrel as of 11am, 5/12/04

1	Acharon, Pedro, Jr. B.	65,380
2	Rivera, Ryan C.	27,162

Mayor (Cotabato City)
Namfrel as of 2 30pm, 5/11/04

1	Juliano, Estrellita T.	9,469
2	Sema, Muslimin G.	8,409
3	Palacala, Saguila D.	198
4	Atenion, Nicasio L.	13

REGION 13

AGUSAN DEL NORTE
Namfrel as of 2.30am, 5/12/04

Governor

1	Solva, Nilo D.	4,187
2	Amante, Edelmiro A.	1,419
3	Cupin, Saturnino S.	4

Congressman (District 1)
Namfrel as of 2 30am, 5/12/04

1	Banaag, Leovigildo B.	16,767
2	Cabalan, Casiano, Jr. B.	16,463
3	Plaza, Charito	15,077
4	Buyan, Romeo C.	135

Congressman (District 2)

1	Libarios, Roan I.	3,036
2	Amante, Angel	2,341
3	Lomongsod, Jorge M.	2

Mayor (Butuan City)
Namfrel as of 2.30am, 5/12/05
329 precincts

1	Plaza, Democrito II D.	25,737
2	Balanon, Emmanuel DR.	23,482
3	Emboy, Teodoro A.	732

SURIGAO DEL NORTE
Namfrel as of 3.30pm, 5/11/04

Governor

1	Barbers, Robert Lyndon S.	24,336
2	Matugas, Francisco T.	23,122

Congressman (District 2)

1	Barbers, Robert Ace S.	37,543
2	Preston, Michael W.	4,294

Mayor (Surigao City)
Namfrel as of 3 30pm, 5/11/04

1	Casurra, Alfonso S.	23,996
2	Sering, Nicanor	14,063
3	Cervantes, Nicolas Y.	34
4	Arguelles, Jama A.	27

SURIGAO DEL SUR
Comelec as of 12pm, 5/12/04

Governor

1	Pimentel, Vicente, Jr. T.	26,663
2	Tan, Mateo E.	5,089

Congressman (District 1)
Comelec as of 12pm, 5/12/04

1	Pichay, Prospero, Jr. A.	21,367
2	Delgado, Mary Elizabeth T.	12,668
3	Delvezo, Simplicio G.	12

ARMM

MAGUINDANAO
Comelec as of 3 30pm, 5/12/04

Governor

1	Ampatuan, Andal S.	67,800
2	Matalam, Guimid P.	26,702

Congressman (District 1)
Namfrel as of 2 30pm, 5/11/04

1	Dilangalen, Bai Sendig G.	8,261
2	Sema, Bai Sandra A.	3,023
3	Datukon, Arnel S	3,002
4	Ibay, Ibrahim P.	2,475
5	Andong, Mao, Jr. K.	401
6	Panda, Salick U	131
7	Bayam, Ahmad M	66
8	Dadang, Hadji Akmad P.	20
9	Atenion, Clement E.	15

Congressman (District 2)
Comelec as of 3 30pm, 5/12/04

1	Datumanong, Simeon A.	67,603
2	Salendab, Mastor D.	3,700

Polls shock international observers

From page A1

intimidation, and the laxity with which the national and local officials of the Commission on Elections handled such an important national function."

Recalling that during the group's visit to the Comelec central office in Manila, a representative of the poll body had described how the elections were fraught with fraud, Jennings said she was "curious" why, with that knowledge, the commission still had not addressed the situation.

Positive picture

But Foreign Secretary Delia Domingo Albert said other foreign observers had "painted a positive picture" of the elections.

Albert met Tuesday night with poll monitors from Malaysia, the United States and Australia. She said that while she had discussed with them the progress of the elections, they had asked that no details be disclosed until they had issued their reports.

CEBU DAILY NEWS

BALLOT boxes are transported from Madridejos in Bantayan Island to Cebu City after police chief SPO4 Arsenio Escarda was gunned down by Army Sgt. Mario Benito who stopped the canvassing of votes in that islands.

"We have opened our electoral process to the scrutiny of the international community, and many have heeded our call," Albert said in a statement.

"I have met several observers and they have noticed the improvements in our elections. There are certainly problems, but even [they] believe that these problems are not insurmountable."

Among the groups that Albert met with was the monitoring team from Malaysia led by Dato Abdullah Zawawi Mohamad, deputy chair of that country's eight-member Election Commission.

"The Malaysian team shared with me their insights on our elections and made comparisons with their own elections," Albert said.

"They painted a positive picture of [our] elections and said that there will always be problems in such a large and complicated exercise, but that all things considered, the Philippines and its people are to be congratulated."

Catherine Maceda, vice chair of the Department of Foreign Affairs' Overseas Absentee Voting secretariat, said the Malaysians were particularly interested in the way the absentee voting was conducted.

She said Malaysia was doing its absentee voting by post and was exploring the possibility of setting up overseas precincts, as the Philippines had done.

Albert said there was a "common thread" in the comments of the international observers: that "difficulties and problems were certainly present during the elections," but that these were "attributable to a need to improve systems and processes, [to generate] more resources and to utilize modern technology."

"They said these problems do not affect the credibility of the elections," she said.

Very concerned

Hoyte, a member of the group invited by the Patriots, said: "We are disappointed that what we thought might happen has happened. And we are very concerned, particularly now in the canvassing period. We would rather not be monitoring elections; we would rather that they were honest, orderly, violence-free, fraud-free."

Australian Peter Murphy, who had been deployed to Isabela, reported that the municipal hall of Jones was raided and razed before he left for Manila yesterday.

He also reported that the Bombo Radyo station was closed down and the power supply cut by a local supporter of the dominant political camp. And yet, he said, he saw that supporter being escorted by police on May 10.

German Laura Brune said she was "shocked" that despite the rules against influencing voters, sample ballots and campaign materials were all over the polling precincts.

"Another thing that bothered me a lot was the fact that there is so much violence going on during the time of elections, and people seem to accept the fact that people get killed and harassed," Brune said.

According to PNP records, 117 people have been killed since the election period started on Dec. 15. The figure is the highest in two decades, even higher than the 96 deaths recorded during the 1986 "snap" election. *(Story on Page A1.)*

Harassment

The observers, all church interns, were sent to the Philippines by the Patriots' partner Presbyterian churches abroad.

They had a taste of election harassment in Muñoz, Nueva Ecija, when four vehicles carrying armed men circled the house in which they were staying. The armed men left only when the police were alerted.

"We were very concerned, but as we said [earlier], very much greater risks are faced by Filipino people who want to exercise their democratic right. We have a degree of security that Filipinos do not have because we are from countries outside the Philippines," Hoyte said.

Sr. Sol Perpiñan, Patriots initiator, said a number of volunteers in the northern part of Metro Manila had witnessed a member of the board of election inspectors tear up around 20 ballots.

But apart from the Patriots volunteers, nobody raised a fuss about the incident.

Patriots blamed the Comelec for the disenfranchisement of voters, and said it would investigate whether officials of the poll body could be impeached for neglect of duty.

"In such an atmosphere of fraud, I feel so disheartened and disgusted," said American Sarah Tuttle. "As I watch the long lines of people waiting to vote, I wonder: Where and when do they find the hope that actual democracy will happen?"

Song and dance

Other observers, a group from Europe that visited Southern Mindanao on the invitation of the Compact for Peaceful Elections, said they were both shocked and amused by the campaign gimmicks employed by politicians to win votes.

Impressed with party list

"It's like watching a carnival or a festival," Herman Schmidt, a member of the European Parliament, told reporters in Davao City.

Ilona Leskinen of Finland said she was saddened to see that Filipino politicians would rather put on a good show than focus on programs of government.

"In Finland, you never see our president sing or dance," she said.

Schmidt, a native of Sweden, said elections in European countries were much different.

He said that in Belurussia, for example, elections were "very official," people took voting seriously, and candidates were expected to present their platforms of government.

Schmidt said the Philippines was focusing too much on personalities and too little on issues or political objectives.

"It's the product of inferences from the United States and the traditional culture of this country. It's like American politics, where there's an element of show and politicians are some kind of entertainment," he said.

But he praised the voter turnout and "the high degree of importance that Filipinos put on their votes."

Schmidt, Leskinen and their colleagues from France and South Korea visited various areas in the city and in Davao del Norte, Davao del Sur and Compostela Valley.

If there was one thing that impressed them, it was the party-list system.

Frenchman Pierre Rousset, an adviser of the European United Left/Nordic Green Left, said he would like a party-list system to be introduced in his country.

He said it would give those outside the mainstream, the right-wing UMP and the left-wing Socialist Party, a chance to get elected.

"I'm in favor of a party-list system in France because it's the least democratic country in Europe in this aspect," he said. *With reports from Jerome Aning in Manila; Joel B. Escovilla and Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Namfrel hits Comelec for election foul-ups

From page A1

found liable, Concepcion said: "Later ... after the elections. We should finish this first."

He said Congress or the executive department should also "take the necessary steps" to explain why these problems occurred.

I think the problem lies with some Comelec commissioners .... and some former commissioners," said Namfrel secretary general Guillermo Luz.

Reelectionist Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. of the Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino is raising warning flags over the "last-minute" deployment of Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano to the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

"I am issuing a general warning against those who would manipulate the will of the electorate in the ARMM and Mindanao," Pimentel said in an interview Tuesday night.

"I hope the so-called last-minute assignment of Garcillano to the ARMM is not a prelude to the [poll] manipulation that I am apprehensive about."

Pimentel, a victim of *dagdag-bawas* (vote padding and shaving) in the 1995 senatorial elections, had previously opposed the appointment of Garcillano as a commissioner. He had claimed that Garcillano, then a mid-level Comelec official, was involved in poll manipulation in Mindanao in 1995.

Pimentel lost in his bid for a Senate seat in that electoral contest.

Manuel Barcelona's appointment as a commissioner had also been opposed by Pimentel, who said Barcelona was an acknowledged campaign contributor of then vice presidential candidate Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in the 1998 elections.

Garcillano replaced Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos as officer in charge of the ARMM in light of the latter's recent health problems.

But Pimentel said: "They could have sent other people there, not necessarily Garcillano. He was there before and his performance was not very reliable."

Tancangco

Namfrel's Luz again cited Luzviminda Tancangco, a retired Comelec commissioner who was in charge of the apparently failed voter registration program.

"We think she should be answerable for what she has done, but she's not the only one answerable," Luz said.

He said Namfrel would wait until the elections were over before lodging charges against erring Comelec officials before the Office of the Ombudsman.

Namfrel earlier filed a case against Tancangco, after Congress dropped the impeachment complaint against her.

Quick count in 7 days

Namfrel legal counsel Jose Bernas also blamed the Comelec for the delay in the Namfrel quick count.

Bernas said the precinct numbers that the Comelec had given Namfrel did not match those that many precincts used on election day.

"We have to manually check. We can't post [results] unless we check the numbers that didn't match," he said.

Bernas said that as of noon yesterday, Namfrel already had the results from around 40 percent of the 216,382 precincts nationwide. But these were still being verified.

Namfrel's quick count picked up some speed yesterday afternoon with results being released every hour. Bernas said he was confident Namfrel would finish the quick count in seven days.

Besides sending the results through text messaging, Namfrel volunteers are now using e-mail to send the results to the quick count center in La Salle Greenhills.

"The additional bonus to this particular system is, at the end of this count, when we're finished, we will have in the data bank [results from] every single precinct in the country. This is more than we had in the past," Bernas said.

In past elections, local Namfrel counting centers tabulated the results in their areas before sending them to the quick count center, he said.

KAPATAGAN, LANAO DEL SUR: Blocking force provide security and keep violence-prone elements out.

RYAN LIM/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

Villanueva

Bangon Pilipinas is deploying thousands of its poll watchers and lawyers to ensure that "Eddie" and "Bro. Eddie" votes are counted for its standard-bearer, Eduardo Villanueva.

The evangelist, who was reported to be neck and neck with Ms Macapagal in the absentee voting, had complained earlier that many of his local votes were not being counted.

He said this was because the Board of Election Inspectors did not know of the May 7 Comelec advisory stating that all votes for "Eddie" or "Bro. Eddie" should be counted for Villanueva following the final disqualification of "nuisance candidate" Eddie Gil.

The advisory was put out in several newspapers two days before election day, and it has apparently not reached the BEI.

Villanueva has instructed his provincial, regional and municipal coordinators to "go out in full force and guard the canvassing closely."

Bangon Pilipinas' information officer Gerry Zorilla said its lawyers were now documenting cases of voter disenfranchisement and the non-appreciation of votes containing the name "Eddie."

"We must frustrate all evil plots seeking to corrupt the people's votes through *dagdag-bawas* and other forms of fraud," Zorilla said, adding:

"Bangon Pilipinas will exhaust all legal means to protect the votes for Bro. Eddie and prosecute those who have involved themselves in ballot-switching, politically motivated disenfranchisement of voters and other irregularities."

Last battle

Pimentel told the INQUIRER that the last battle in the 2004 elections would be fought in the ARRM, homeland of the Moro secessionist movement.

He said the results of the special elections held yesterday in the ARMM would spell victory, or defeat, for Ms Macapagal and KNP standard-bearer Fernando Poe Jr.

"The ARMM will be the last battleground, and we [KNP candidates] will be triumphant in the end," said Pimentel, a native of Mindanao.

He called on the Filipino people to "focus their energies" on the ARMM to ensure the credibility of the election results.

He expressed confidence that he would bag the majority of the votes in the ARMM provinces—Lanao del Sur, Sulu, Tawi-tawi, Basilan and Maguindanao.

But Pimentel warned of massive fraud allegedly being orchestrated by Comelec officials.

"There is supposed to be a denial, but I haven't heard from the Commission on Elections," said Pimentel, referring to Garcillano's presence in the ARMM. *With a report from Michael Lim Ubac*

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Taguba: Leadership failure behind abuse

WASHINGTON—The US general who helped uncover the Iraqi prison abuse scandal, said Tuesday a breakdown of leadership led to the mistreatment but there was no evidence American soldiers were following orders.

Maj. Gen. Antonio Taguba told a congressional committee there was a "failure in leadership, from the brigade commander on down."

"Lack of discipline, no training whatsoever, and no supervision," were the main causes, Taguba told lawmakers. "Supervisory omission was rampant."

In his report on abuses at the Abu Ghraib prison, Taguba highlighted "numerous incidents of sadistic, blatant and wanton criminal abuses" against Iraqi prisoners.

His report, along with pictures of naked prisoners piled in sexually humiliating positions, have shaken the US occupation of Iraq and drawn widespread international criticism.

US lawmakers were set to see unpublished pictures of abuse Wednesday, when the defense department will bring photographs to a private viewing at Congress for three hours.

Sen. John Warner, head of the Senate armed services committee, said only lawmakers would be allowed to see the pictures, which will be returned to the Pentagon because they are evidence in a criminal case.

He did not say whether the images would be made public, joining dozens already published and broadcast in the festering scandal.

Seven soldiers have already been charged over the abuse, but Taguba said there was no sign the US guards were following orders.

"We did not find any evidence of a policy," Taguba said in sworn testimony to the Senate armed services committee.

In his testimony, Taguba, 53, one of two Filipino-American generals in the US Army, said the abuse began from mid-to-late October and continued until January.

The top Democrat on the committee, Carl Levin, suggested that top military officials may have sanctioned the abuse as a way to extract information from detainees.

"The collars used on prisoners, the dogs and the cameras did not suddenly appear out of thin air," Levin said.

"These acts of abuse were not the spontaneous actions of lower ranking enlisted personnel who lacked the proper supervision.

"These attempts to extract information from prisoners by abusive and degrading methods were clearly planned and suggested by others," Levin said.

But Taguba said: "At the end of the day, a few soldiers and civilians conspired to abuse and conduct egregious acts of violence against detainees and other civilians outside the bounds of international law and the Geneva Convention."

Lawmakers again expressed their disgust at the extent of the brutality.

"The mistreatment of prisoners represents an appalling and totally unacceptable breach of military regulations and conduct," Warner said.

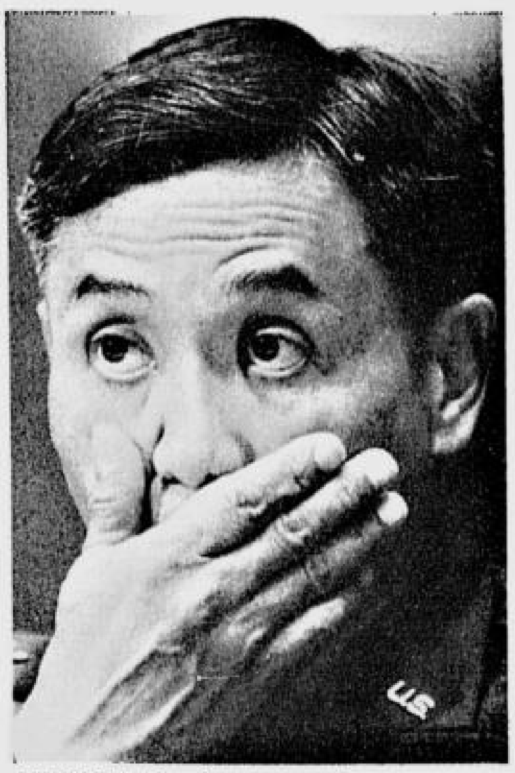
"The damage done to the reputation and credibility of our nation and the armed forces has the potential to undermine substantial gains and the sacrifices by our forces and their families and those of our allies fighting with us in the cause of freedom," the Republican senator added.

Germany Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer, who is in Washington for talks, called on the United States to restore its "moral leadership" of the world by carrying out a full investigation of the Iraqi prison abuse scandal.

Speaking after meeting US Secretary of State Colin Powell, Fischer said Germany had been "really shocked and deeply appalled" by the images from Abu Ghraib.

"We need the United States, we need the moral leadership of the United States, it is important for the West, for all of us," Fischer told reporters.

Referring to the various investigations underway, Fischer added: "We are looking forward that this situation will lead to the restoration of the moral leadership of the United States, this is crucial for all of us." *AFP*



TAGUBA before Senate panel

Video shows al-Qaida leader beheading an American

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The masked men then pushed the 26-year-old American to the floor and shouted "God is greatest" above his screams as one of them sawed his head off with a large knife then held it aloft for the camera.

The ritual killing resembled the murder of US reporter Daniel Pearl, beheaded by Islamist militants in Pakistan, and Berg's orange overalls were reminiscent of those worn by al-Qaida suspects held by US troops at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba.

The Web site said Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, a top ally of al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden, was the man who cut off Berg's head. The statement in the video was signed off with Zarqawi's name and dated May 11.

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"Berg's body was found with his hands behind his back and beheaded," said another US official who declined to be identified. "The body was found along a roadside by a US military patrol."

"This shows the true nature of the enemies of freedom," White House spokesperson Scott McClellan told reporters. "They have no regard for the lives of innocent men, women and children. We will pursue those responsible and bring them to justice."

Photographs shown around the world of naked Iraqi prisoners stacked in a pyramid or positioned to simulate sex acts at Abu Ghraib prison have provoked international anger and pose a serious setback to US efforts to stabilize Iraq.

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"As for you Bush, dog of the Christians, anticipate what will harm you... You and your soldiers will regret the day you stepped foot in Iraq and dared to violate Muslims."

The murder was condemned by the Council of American-Islamic Relations, a US-based Islamic civil rights and advocacy group.

"We condemn this cold-blooded murder and repudiate all those who commit such acts of mindless violence in the name of religion," it said.

It was not immediately possible to verify the authenticity of the tape carried on the Muntada al-Ansar Islamist website, but the CIA was reviewing the video for clues of who was responsible, a US official said.

"He was a private American citizen not associated with a military contract," said a state department official. *Reuters*

THESE video stills obtained May 11 from an Islamist website show five hooded gunmen standing behind a seated man (left) and as the man was about to be beheaded. A senior US state department official identified the slain man as Nicholas Berg, a private businessman from Pennsylvania who was in Iraq looking for contracts and had gone missing in mid-April. AFP

Accused torturer says she acted on orders

DENVER—Pfc. Lynndie R. England, a prison guard who has been prominent in photographs that led to an outcry over treatment of inmates at the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq, said in a television interview broadcast Tuesday night that she acted on instructions from superior officers.

"'That's a good tactic, keep it up,'" England, who is 21 years old, quoted commanding officers that she did not name as saying.

Asked about a photograph in which England was shown holding a leash attached to a chained and collared prisoner, she said the pose and the picture had been a result of direct orders.

"I was instructed by persons in higher ranks to stand there and hold this leash," she said in the interview, on KCNC-TV in Denver.

England, who is shown smiling and pointing to naked prisoners in some of photographs, said in the interview that she and the other soldiers in the pictures sometimes felt "kind of weird" about what they were asked to do. But she insisted that people in the "higher chain of command," knew all about it.

She was specifically told, she said of one photograph, to "stand there, give the thumbs up, and smile." *New York Times*

REPRISAL

Nigerian Muslims kill 11 Christians, burn churches

KANO, Nigeria—Rioting Nigerian Muslims killed at least 11 Christians and set two churches ablaze in the northern city of Kano on Tuesday, in a reprisal for the slaying of hundreds of Muslims in central Nigeria last week.

President Olusegun Obasanjo called on Muslim leaders to show restraint to avoid further bloodshed.

The violence flared in at least two parts of Nigeria's second largest city after a protest march by thousands of Muslims demanding a clamp down on Christian militia responsible for last week's massacre in the remote farming town of Yelwa.

Witness Nath Ikyur said he saw rioters stopping vehicles and selecting non-Muslims to be killed.

"I saw at least 10 dead bodies on the road. I saw a group of five burned bodies at one point. Some of the others were cut with machetes," he said.

Kano, 400 km north of the capital Abuja, is the center of Islamic activism in Africa's most populous nation and has been the scene of bloody religious riots in the past.

Thousands of Christians took refuge in a police academy building on the outskirts of town to escape rioters armed with cutlasses and clubs.

"They are burning houses and just killing Christians," said Gloria Butpan, a housewife who took refuge in the academy.

"There are a lot of casualties here. People have been cut all over their bodies and they are bleeding seriously," said Butpan, adding that at least two churches had been burned.

Police, who routinely withhold casualty figures from religious violence, could not confirm any deaths.

Thousands of Muslims had earlier protested but dispersed after delivering a petition to the Kano state governor.

"The federal government should put a stop to the killing of Muslims in Plateau state or else the Muslims will have no option but to defend themselves," said Sheik Umar Kabo, a march leader.

Calling for calm at a meeting with Muslim clerics in the capital Abuja on Tuesday, Obasanjo said: "I will appeal to you to restrain our Muslim brothers... because if you go for an eye for an eye, this country will be bloody."

Kano state government imposed a dusk-to-dawn curfew on the city and called in troops to quell the riots, residents said.

Survivors of last week's attack on Yelwa town said they buried 630 corpses after a two-day assault by heavily armed Christian militia. It was not possible to verify the figure independently and police have said "hundreds" were killed. *Reuters*

Banquet kicks off Danish royal wedding rites

MISS Mary Donaldson, soon to be crown princess, and Danish Crown Prince Frederik arrive at Christiansborg castle May 11, to attend the banquet for Danish dignitaries kicking off official wedding celebrations in Denmark. The actual wedding ceremony takes place May 14. AP

COPENHAGEN, Denmark—Marking three days of celebrations leading up to Friday's wedding between Crown Prince Frederik and Australian Mary Donaldson, the royal family hosted a banquet Tuesday for Danish lawmakers, dignitaries and guests.

The four-course dinner at the Christiansborg Palace was the first official event that also will include receptions at the Copenhagen City Hall and at the Folketing, or parliament, on Wednesday and Thursday, respectively.

Queen Margrethe was hosting the dinner at the Royal Reception Rooms in the castle that houses parliament and the prime minister's office. The entire royal family and the future crown princess' family were on hand, all dressed in formal gowns and suits.

The other 300 invitees included Danish, Faeroese and Greenland government members, Lutheran clerics, police chiefs, journalists and the dean of the diplomatic corps in Denmark, Omar Migadde Lubulwa, Uganda's ambassador.

Members of the Royal Danish Guard's Hussar Regiment trumpeted as the royals—including Frederik with Donaldson on his arm—entered the black-and-white, marble-floored banquet hall, the walls lined with tapestries featuring hunting motifs.

Donaldson—in a silver and gray sleeveless gown, a train cascading down her back—wore for the first time the Order of the Elephant on her sash, Denmark's oldest order reserved only for royals and foreign heads of state.

In his speech to the couple, Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen referenced the fairy tale "The Princess and the Pea," written by Hans Christian Andersen.

In the tale, a prince tests his future bride's pedigree by placing a pea beneath 20 mattresses and feather beds to see if she can feel it.

"Nowadays, a real princess must not be thin-skinned," Fogh Rasmussen said. "On the contrary, a real, modern princess must be thick-skinned."

The job requires "toughness and strength. I am convinced that you have these qualities," he said.

Afterward, formally clad attendants served stuffed quail and quail eggs in spring cabbage salad, poached fish and fennel in a white bisque, roasted tenderloin with stuffed artichokes, potatoes and shallots in a crispy dough with a mustard sauce and cake for desert. The wines came from the royal family's vineyards in southwestern France. The sparkling wine was a special Cuvee Frederik and Mary.

Outside the neo-baroque castle that dates from 1918, about 200 onlookers cheered as the guests arrived for the dinner in limousines, driving past an assembled squad of horse-mounted Danish cavalrymen wearing red tunics with polished silver breast plates.

"The Danish royal house is like a fairy tale," said Marlene Viftrup-Jensen, a 27-year-old shop assistant, who had taken the week off to be in Copenhagen for the wedding and traveled from Odense, 170 km west of the capital. *AP*

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Taguba: Leadership failure behind abuse

WASHINGTON—The US general who helped uncover the Iraqi prison abuse scandal, said Tuesday a breakdown of leadership led to the mistreatment but there was no evidence American soldiers were following orders.

Maj. Gen. Antonio Taguba told a congressional committee there was a "failure in leadership, from the brigade commander on down."

"Lack of discipline, no training whatsoever, and no supervision," were the main causes, Taguba told lawmakers. "Supervisory omission was rampant."

In his report on abuses at the Abu Ghraib prison, Taguba highlighted "numerous incidents of sadistic, blatant and wanton criminal abuses" against Iraqi prisoners.

His report, along with pictures of naked prisoners piled in sexually humiliating positions, have shaken the US occupation of Iraq and drawn widespread international criticism.

US lawmakers were set to see unpublished pictures of abuse Wednesday, when the defense department will bring photographs to a private viewing at Congress for three hours.

Sen. John Warner, head of the Senate armed services committee, said only lawmakers would be allowed to see the pictures, which will be returned to the Pentagon because they are evidence in a criminal case.

He did not say whether the images would be made public, joining dozens already published and broadcast in the festering scandal.

Seven soldiers have already been charged over the abuse, but Taguba said there was no sign the US guards were following orders.

"We did not find any evidence of a policy," Taguba said in sworn testimony to the Senate armed services committee.

In his testimony, Taguba, 53, one of two Filipino-American generals in the US Army, said the abuse began from mid-to-late October and continued until January.

The top Democrat on the committee, Carl Levin, suggested that top military officials may have sanctioned the abuse as a way to extract information from detainees.

"The collars used on prisoners, the dogs and the cameras did not suddenly appear out of thin air," Levin said.

"These acts of abuse were not the spontaneous actions of lower ranking enlisted personnel who lacked the proper supervision.

"These attempts to extract information from prisoners by abusive and degrading methods were clearly planned and suggested by others," Levin said.

But Taguba said: "At the end of the day, a few soldiers and civilians conspired to abuse and conduct egregious acts of violence against detainees and other civilians outside the bounds of international law and the Geneva Convention."

Lawmakers again expressed their disgust at the extent of the brutality.

"The mistreatment of prisoners represents an appalling and totally unacceptable breach of military regulations and conduct," Warner said.

"The damage done to the reputation and credibility of our nation and the armed forces has the potential to undermine substantial gains and the sacrifices by our forces and their families and those of our allies fighting with us in the cause of freedom," the Republican senator added.

Germany Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer, who is in Washington for talks, called on the United States to restore its "moral leadership" of the world by carrying out a full investigation of the Iraqi prison abuse scandal.

Speaking after meeting US Secretary of State Colin Powell, Fischer said Germany had been "really shocked and deeply appalled" by the images from Abu Ghraib.

"We need the United States, we need the moral leadership of the United States, it is important for the West, for all of us," Fischer told reporters.

Referring to the various investigations underway, Fischer added: "We are looking forward that this situation will lead to the restoration of the moral leadership of the United States, this is crucial for all of us." *AFP*

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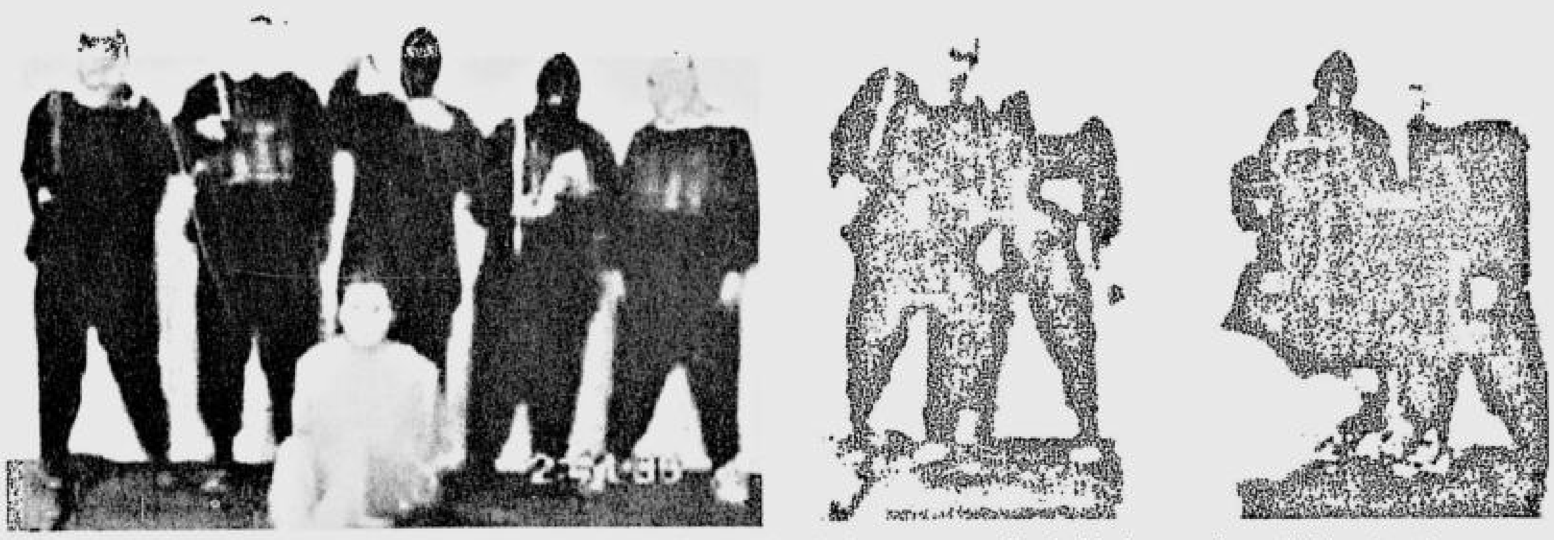

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US slaps new sanctions on Syria

WASHINGTON—US President George W. Bush on Tuesday imposed new sanctions on Syria, charging it supported terrorism and failed to close its borders to insurgents looking to fight US forces in Iraq.

The sanctions, which come on top of existing US terrorism penalties, include a near-blanket ban on US exports to Syria and the power to freeze Syrian assets in the United States, the White House said.

Bush accused Syria of "supporting terrorism, continuing its occupation of Lebanon, pursuing weapons of mass destruction and missile programs, and undermining United States and international efforts with respect to the stabilization and reconstruction of Iraq."

"The Syrian government must understand that its conduct alone will determine the duration of the sanctions," Bush said in a statement issued by the White House.

Bush warned that additional sanctions could be imposed on Damascus if it does not adopt a more positive approach to relations with its neighbors and weapons of mass destruction.

He urged Syria to fully support the goal of a stable and sovereign Iraq, and said it must stop foreign fighters crossing into Iraq.

Damascus must do more, Bush said "given that individuals bent on sowing terror continue to cross into Iraq from Syria."

Syria's actions "constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States and (I) hereby declare a national emergency to deal with that threat," Bush's formal order said.

Except for food and medicine and items intended for certain exempt entities such as the US Embassy, foreign diplomatic missions and UN agencies in Damascus, all US exports to Syria, estimated at some $100 million worth of goods per year, are banned under the sanctions.

That prohibition is expected to heavily affect US companies, particularly oil firms, working in Syria, which will have to find another source for the materials used in their operations, officials said.

The sanctions specifically ban any aircraft or airline owned or controlled by the Syrian government from taking off or landing in the United States, although Syrian airlines do not now fly to the United States.

"Implementation of sanctions comes after many months of diplomatic efforts to convince the Syrian government to change its unacceptable behavior," the White House said.

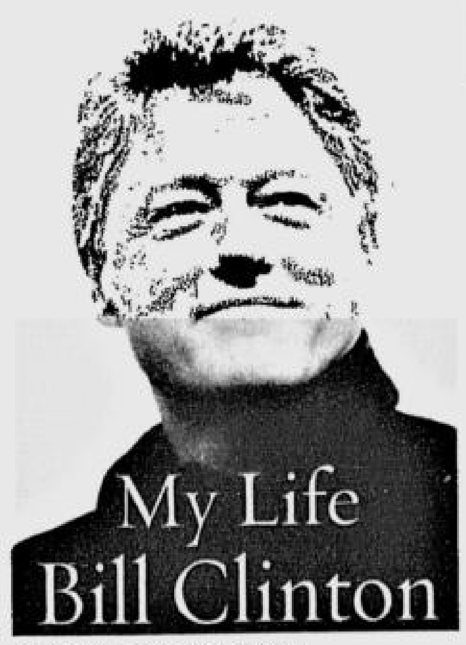
"The Syrian government has failed to take significant, concrete steps to address these concerns," it said.

The statement noted in particular that Syria continued to provide haven and support for Hamas, Hezbollah and Palestinian Islamic Jihad, despite US Secretary of State Colin Powell's warning to stop, delivered face-to-face to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad a year ago.

"They have taken no steps whatsoever in shutting down these operators and the kind of dirty business they are engaged in," a senior State Department official said.

In late April, the White House said that implementation of sanctions was imminent.

Most of the sanctions stem from the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Act, signed into law in December 2003. *AFP*



A NEW BESTSELLER?
The cover of former US president Bill Clinton's memoir, My Life, released May 11 in New York. Clinton has finished writing his memoirs and has given the completed manuscript to editors. AFP

Anti-king protesters rally in Katmandu

KATMANDU — Thousands of demonstrators rallied through Nepal's capital Wednesday chanting slogans against King Gyanendra as the Himalayan kingdom was shut down for a second straight day in a strike by the opposition.

Protesters from the opposition, which called the two-day strike even though the pro-royal prime minister last week met their demands to resign, burned tires near the royal palace as they waved flags of leftist parties.

Traffic was off the streets and shops were closed, with opposition supporters putting locks on the doors of 32 municipal offices around Katmandu to enforce the strike, witnesses said.

Angry youth smeared soot on the face of one municipal ward chief who showed up for work, Haribol Nakarmi, who was ushered away to safety by riot police, opposition activist Bhairav Rawal said.

The king's hand-picked prime minister, Surya Bahadur Thapa, resigned Friday after more than a month of protests by opposition leaders furious that Gyanendra fired the elected government in 2002.

The opposition refuses to negotiate with the king on the new premier unless he invites leaders of all parties for joint talks.

The king, however, met Tuesday with Sher Bahadur Deuba, the prime minister he sacked in 2002.

Deuba said he asked for his former job back but also urged the king to negotiate with the parties spearheading the protests.

The king dismissed Deuba arguing that elected leaders were "incompetent" at solving Nepal's myriad problems, particularly a Maoist insurgency which has claimed more than 9,500 lives since 1996.

Pashupati Shumshere Rana, president of Thapa's National Democratic Party, said the king told him he wanted the next premier to be a person "with a clean image who can negotiate with the Maoists and hold general elections as early as possible." The opposition demands that elections be held under a "neutral" all-party government. *AFP*

Limited Edition
Unlimited Luxury

ISUZU
Crosswind
XUVi LIMITED

TITANIUM-accented meter cluster and center panel

XUV
LIMITED
GOLD Limited Emblem

ROOF Basket

CHROME Tailpipe Finisher

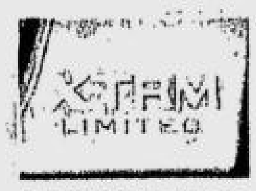
CHROME-accented rear spoiler with dual 3rd brake lamps

BLUE windshield visor

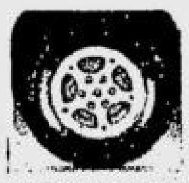
ISUZU Crosswind
Elegant Pearl White Finish

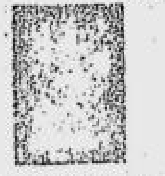
ISUZU
Crosswind
XTRM LIMITED

PIONEER CD/Tuner



LIMITED Emblem


CHROME Alloy wheels


Two exciting body colors: Copper Orange and Sonic Yellow

*photos may vary from actual units

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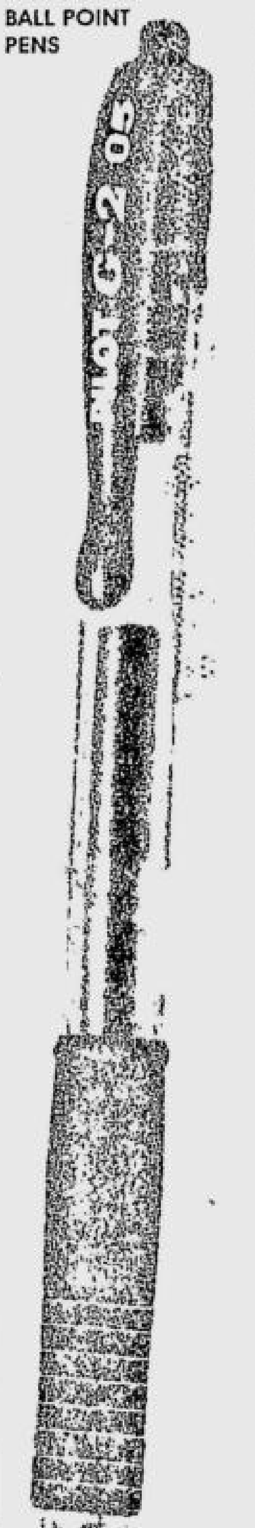

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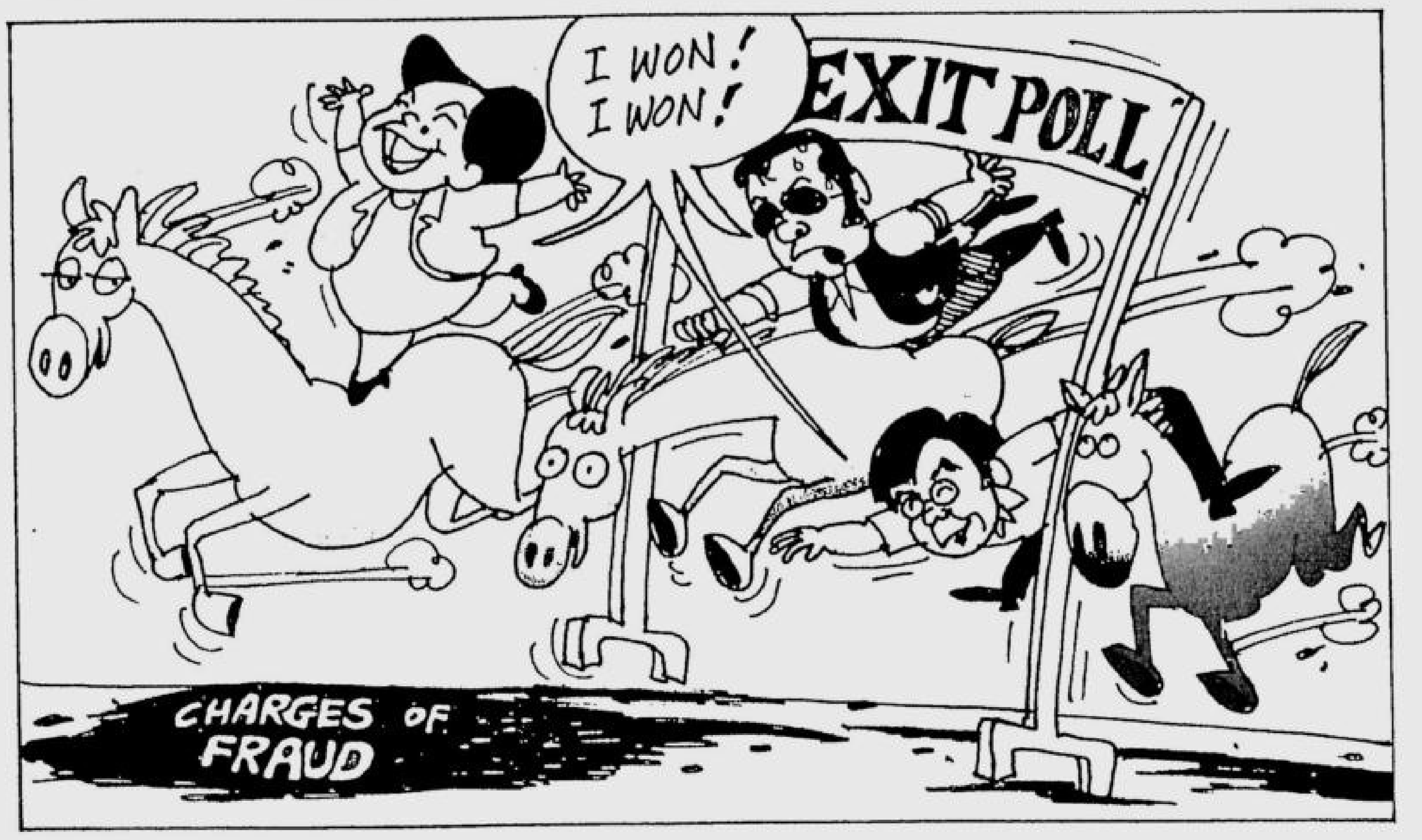

EDITORIALS

Body language

VERY LATE Tuesday night, people watching the CNN-beamed hearing of the US Senate armed forces committee on the abuse of Iraqi detainees by American personnel at the Abu Ghraib prison could not have missed the "crawler" saying that President Macapagal-Arroyo had won a new six-year term. The hearing, at which the worthy whistle-blower, Maj. Gen. Antonio Taguba, was testifying for the first time, could not have been so engrossing as to get in the way of the momentary distraction. Here was an announcement of victory for the President barely two days after the elections, apparently based on the results of assorted early counts or, likely as not, of the Social Weather Stations exit poll.

More startling was yesterday's screaming headline, "Landslide win for GMA," in a government-sequestered tabloid waved aloft by a newsboy obviously baking in the midday sun. A check of the same tabloid hours later showed that there was a kicker, "SWS exit poll," to go with the headline, but it was hardly of the size to be noticed as one whizzed past on the highway. The message flashed like a neon sign, the imprint was made, the deed was done.

This, as much as the Commission on Elections' pathetic conduct of the polls, the climbing body count that has shocked international observers, and the allegations of fraud, is the sort of thing that serves to raise the tension resulting from the political exercise that Filipinos generally approach with nothing less than passion. No matter the survey and quick-count figures, Malacañang's posture of elation at this early stage produces a bad taste in the mouth (and, in this boiling weather, quite possibly thoughts of mayhem among those thus inclined). It does not help any that the President is suddenly shedding her regulation smirk, getting into "winner" clothes (power suit, strand of pearls, mannish wristwatch), hosting lunch for a press corps she is actually not chummy with (except, it's said, when it suits her), and mouthing things about unity and peace. Neither does it help douse the heat that she is now publicly extending gratitude to the religious blocs whose endorsement—what she calls "heartwarming support"—she had assiduously sought and won. ("Assiduously" is correct. For the El Shaddai prayer rally days before the elections, for example, the mountain traveled to Tarlac, climbed into Mohammed's bus and stayed there for 40 minutes.)

To be sure, this sort of behavior has the effect of cementing the perception that, the slow seesaw count notwithstanding, there is already a winner—and she's the one sitting in Malacañang. That perception has been in the making, primarily through the surveys that showed her steady rise to the top, eclipsing the heretofore to-die-for movie idol and even the heavyweight who was frontrunner for quite a time.

That the President is an excellent tactician, as has been said of her at least once, and not grudgingly, is proved by her current body language. It declares that the surveys cannot be wrong, that the statistics and percentages computed by the pollsters are ex cathedra truths—and, yes, that the electorate does behave as sheep that think it high entertainment to be fleeced.

Body count

HAVING said all that, we are also saying that the past political exercise was a blast from the past. Early on Election Day, the attentive observer grown old on a diet of irony could not but have noted that the images on TV displayed the same problems that have plagued this country since God knows when: missing names, lost precincts, irate (because disenfranchised) voters. The reports were like echoes eerily bouncing off the walls: shortage or lack of ballots, presence of armed goons, power blackouts.

Even now, days after what the Comelec called "peaceful" elections, ballot boxes are being burned in sundry attacks on town halls in the north, and a bomb has exploded in the south. The past exercise is being described as the bloodiest in decades, and to think that Ms Macapagal is calling it "a moment of glory."

This is the way things are and will apparently continue to be in this "strong republic" that threatens to endure for the next six—no, so many—years.

Those pesky exit polls

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

EXIT polls, released a day after the Monday vote, are suddenly in the vortex of a storm.

In a two-minute-no-question-taken press interview, presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr. castigated the Social Weather Stations' exit poll for allegedly failing to portray accurately his so-called "commanding lead." He also hit the media for "trending."

ABS-CBN, other stations and major papers reported that the SWS survey of 4,627 respondents found 41 percent of voters picked President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo while 32 percent chose Fernando Poe Jr. The President's lead is equivalent to an estimated 2.66 million votes. No one has claimed, so far, who won.

SWS released its conclusions 24 hours after the voting ended. That safeguard was put in place to avoid accusations of influencing last-minute voters.

In compact countries, like the United Kingdom, exit-poll results are released after the voting booths close. That was also the practice in the United States—until the 1980 elections.

That time, exit polls hit the streets in New York while voters were still filling ballots in California, three time zones away. Based on the East Coast exit polls, Jimmy Carter in Washington conceded to challenger Ronald Reagan even as voters were still filing into precincts in Palo Alto and Sausalito. ("Subsequent studies indicated that only around 3 percent were affected by the early projections from the East Coast," the Economic Times of India noted.)

FPJ is not about to concede to GMA. No one asked him to. The President, congressional and church leaders, the National Movement for Free Elections and the media say an exit poll is, at best, a snapshot.

In a country handcuffed to slow manual counts, thanks to inept election commissioners like Luzviminda Tancangco, the winner can be pinpointed only by the official count. That doesn't soothe FPJ and his restive troops. He has called on his supporters to demonstrate to "remain firm in the belief in the truth that victory is ours."

The specter of losing, however, has emerged. As the defeated US presidential candidate Adlai Stevenson confessed: "It hurts too much to laugh. And I'm too old to cry."

The accuracy of earlier exit polls haunts all. In 1998 SWS predicted that Joseph Estrada would trounce Jose de Venecia, and Erap did. Spain's May 24 exit polls forecast Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar's defeat, following al-Qaida bombing of Madrid trains. Aznar lost.

The adrenalin of "true believers," however, must be kept flowing. This is a country where a stampede to the winners begins, once the first faint but hard indicator of possible defeat emerges, the level-headed political analyst Manuel Quezon III notes.

Denial is also an understandable human reaction. This is specially intense in inexperienced candidates like Poe. It's aggravated by a cordon of less-than-brilliant advisers: Tito Sotto, Dolphy and the Sex Bombs.

Stressed candidates often react by replaying the "Cleopatra-And-The-Messenger Drill." They flay professional journalists—David Celdran, Karmina Constantino, among others—who carefully go about their jobs.

In Shakespeare's play, Cleopatra lavishes rewards on a messenger who reports that Anthony is well. That turns, however, into snarled threats to "stew you in brine" when the courier adds that Anthony married someone else.

I didn't make the match, the messenger protests. I merely brought the news. "Though it be honest, it is never good/To bring bad news."

Journalists will have to console themselves that this controversy over exit polls is not the first. And it will not be the last time they'll bring bad news.

Exit polls have critics and supporters. Reputable market researchers, among them AC Nielsen, Gallup Poll, use surveys extensively. In the Philippines, Pulse Asia and SWS command the respect of scientists and poll users.

The problem with exit polls lies with those who use its data, rather than those who process it. FPJ and Panfilo Lacson swore by SWS—until their ratings started to skid.

To avoid the problem, some countries ban exit polls. About 30 countries clamp some restrictions on polls, Romulo Virola of the National Statistical Board observes. Taiwan, for example, forbids release of opinion polls 10 days before elections.

Others like Cyprus and Japan allow polls. In 1993, Canada tried to prohibit the release of survey results three days before elections. But the supreme court struck it down, as India's did last month. The US Supreme Court likewise affirmed the legitimacy of exit polls.

As the 2004 campaign gathered steam, a number of voices demanded that exit polls be banned. They were apparently unaware that on May 5, 2001, the Supreme Court already ruled that such prohibitions fractured the freedom of expression. "To sustain a ban on survey results would sanction the censorship of all speaking by candidates in an election," the Court declared. It rejected the excuse "that the usual bombast and hyperbolic claims, made during the campaign, can confuse the voters, and thus debase the electoral process."

Proof of the pudding will be in the eating. The final test if the pollsters did call the shots right comes when the official count is done, and the winners are proclaimed.

"Opinion polls are about providing information, sharing knowledge," NSCB's Virola explained. That is also an apt job description for the media. Journalists will have to hone their skills in assessing surveys. "Those who know how to convert the information provided by polls into knowledge, then to wisdom, will be the winners."

* * *

(E-mail: juan_mercado@pacific.net.ph)

Coming home

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

IBARRA Gutierrez, the junior professor who wrote about coming back to resume his work in UP after having spent a couple of years getting his MA in the United States, continues to elicit strong responses from readers. As does the group of Ateneans who proclaimed a similar desire.

I got this e-mail from Daryl Villegas, a teacher on leave from UP Tacloban, who is currently finishing his graduate studies in Eastern Mediterranean University in Cyprus:

"It was good to see Ibarra's piece in a national daily, though we got that article earlier in the various UP alumni e-groups. Many people share the same sentiments. I've been studying in Europe for the past two years for my masters in economics and, yes, I will come back this July. So are many of the so-called Tokyo tech Pinoy students whom I know. I just want our people to know we are hopeful about the Philippines and there are many still who are willing to help the country in any way possible. Only when I have truly served my country can I call myself '*iskolar ng bayan*' (people's scholar).

On the other hand, I also got this letter from another reader, Juan de Jesus:

"What you failed to mention in your article is that Barry and the other Atenistas are people born with silver spoons in their mouths. They can afford to be optimistic about the Philippines! Barry for example is from a family that owns a publishing firm.

"And what of the Ateneans? Anyone who can afford Ateneo tuition fees or study abroad is above middle class. If you want to show an optimistic view of Filipinos choosing to stay rather than leave the country, then get real examples, preferably middle-class folks. Those who can't afford their idealism and yet choose to stay here. Don't think too badly of people who would sacrifice everything just to feed their family. It's not because they hate the Philippines. They're doing it because of the most important Filipino value of all: love of family."

Well, I'm glad for the first letter because it answers the second. I don't know Villegas' personal circumstances, but I'll wager he wasn't "born with a silver spoon in his mouth." UP Tacloban isn't a big school; the biggest UP branch in the Visayas is in Iloilo, not Tacloban. He is as "real" and middle class an example as you can get, someone moreover who hails from the province and can do with sending euros back home. Yet he has chosen to live up to the ideal of being a "*iskolar ng bayan*," which is to serve the people.

Not quite incidentally, not all Ateneans, or La Sallites, or UP Diliman students, are born with silver spoons. Some come from hard-up families who are able to study there by dint of scholarships. I know whereof I speak. I was one. I studied at the Ateneo without spending a single centavo, indeed while managing to save enough of my allowance to tide me over the summer and Christmas breaks.

As I've written several times, the true wonder of it is that it was the scholars, the students who stood to lose the most, not least the ability to pluck their families from dire straits, who took the supreme "sacrifice" of becoming activists at that time. I put "sacrifice" in quotation marks because I'm using it in the same sense as Gutierrez, which is ironically. It was no sacrifice on the part of those who took the path, it was the most sensible thing to do, however that sense was lost on their families. No, idealism does not naturally beat in the hearts of those "who can afford it."

I don't know that those who do decide to come home, or stay put, think "too badly" of those who don't. Gutierrez himself was very clear on the point. He has no problems with the overseas Filipino workers who are forced to work overseas as a matter of survival. He has problems with those who, like him, are forced only to choose between "renting a two bedroom apartment in Quezon City or owning a sprawling house in a New Jersey suburb; of commuting on a UP-Pantranco jeepney or driving the latest model SUV; of making do with a Third World salary or insisting on being paid in the Almighty Dollar."

It is not love of family that drives one to choose the second, it is love of comfort. It is not sacrificing everything to feed family, it is sacrificing everything to feed ego.

I have been clear on the same point. I have no problems with OFWs. I did say that unfortunate as Elmer Jacinto's decision is, it is understandable. If you live on an island (Basilan) that God and government forgot, you go to a classroom where your thoughts are interrupted by intermittent gunfire, you will not feel a very strong attachment to the land of your birth. I will not recriminate against Jacinto, but I will not set him up as an example for emulation either.

Gutierrez is right. For those of us who are middle class, the choice is not really between starvation and survival. Well, it is really a little more than taking the jeepney or driving an SUV. It is also a choice between acceptance and rejection, between the kind of success your family or community approves of and the kind of life you want for yourself. I did tell a group of youth a couple of years ago it's easy to be idealistic, until the family reunions when you get to be compared with the *pinsan* or other son-in-law who has a sprawling house in New Alabang, if not New Jersey, who drives an SUV, and who earns big bucks, if not almighty dollars. And you are deemed a failure, often in not very subtle terms. At least in our time, which was a time of great ferment, when the world as the older generation knew it was being challenged, we had some kind of cultural support for choosing to be an idealist, or an iconoclast, or an "outsider." It was romantic. Not so today, it is just suicidal.

It takes a lot more courage to do it. But, hey, these guys are doing it.

'Operations' in Mindanao

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE ELECTIONS had all the elements, including pathos and comedy. One of the most comic—and pathetic—news over radio yesterday was the one about voters discovering that the peso bills used by some politicians to buy their votes were fake. The voters found this out when they tried to use the money to pay for some goods and store owners refused to accept them. *Peke daw.*

* * *

In every election, Mindanao is called the "land of opportunity" or the "land of operations" by politicians. This is because in some parts of the big island, some politicos are said to have the opportunity to improve their standing, provided they agree to some backroom "operations" involving millions of peso. Those who benefit from these nefarious activities are mainly senatorial candidates in the "twilight zone" just outside the "Magic 12." Money is the only thing that works here. Interestingly, the operators for certain senatorial candidates now languishing in the *zona de peligro* are said to have already descended on Mindanao.

* * *

The scenario is the same every election. There is a declaration by the Comelec of a "failure of elections" in a few areas of the big island either because ballot boxes have been snatched or goons have terrorized voters or because of bad weather. New elections are held, and the results are said to depend on the highest bidder. Or there could be outright manipulation of results by a conspiracy between local officials and Comelec personnel.

A week before the recent elections there was talk that some senatorial candidates who are now doing very well already made "deposits" with the right parties. Even before a trend showing possible winning senatorial bets could be established, those who were in trouble began receiving calls from Mindanao operators. The message: *mag-deposit na kayo para huwag mawala sa balasa.*

* * *

I dropped in at the Dagupan City residence of Speaker and Mrs. Jose de Venecia last Tuesday afternoon. From the journalist's standpoint, except perhaps for the Palace war-room, there's no better place to follow election developments than being with the Speaker. I found him and Gina hosting a late lunch for reelectionist Gov. Victor Agbayani, who won overwhelmingly over his rival, Marietta Primicias-Goco, and mayors from JDV's own fourth district. Unlike other candidates, JDV was not preoccupied with his own fate since he ran unopposed. Hence, Malacañang felt freer, I suppose, to enlist his help to blunt the opposition's effort to project FPJ as a winner this early.

It's obvious that the battle has shifted to the propaganda arena. For its opening salvo, the opposition, led by FPJ, staged a "victory rally" in Makati at 6 p.m. last Tuesday, one day after the polls closed. By then the canvassing hadn't even begun in many municipalities, and the Social Weather Stations still had to come out with its exit poll projecting a GMA win over FPJ by over 8 percentage points. It's also obvious that the opposition is not interested in hard results, but whipping up hysteria.

* * *

JDV approached his task clinically. He called various party leaders to find out how the elections went, especially in the big provinces. In his home province of Pangasinan, Districts I, II and III showed GMA leading, while in his own 4th district JDV estimated that GMA could get as much as 75 percent of the votes. The district includes Dagupan City where JDV said GMA could win by 15,000, helping offset a possible 10,000 to 15,000 lead by FPJ in his hometown of San Carlos City and in Urdaneta City. The fight was even in Alaminos City, but Binalonan, the hometown of GMA's late mother Eva Macaraeg, only gave her 5,000 votes.

* * *

The Speaker noted that the SWS exit poll for **the National Capital Region, released last Tuesday noon, showed a "sensational" turnaround: the K-4 had expected FPJ to take NCR with a one to two-percent lead, but the exit poll said GMA would win there by 8 percentage points. JDV ascribed this crucial development to the last-minute rally behind GMA of the undecided in the metropolis.**

JDV called Representatives Isidoro Real of Zamboanga del Sur, Raul Gonzalez of Iloilo, Raul del Mar of Cebu City, Prospero Nograles of Davao, Edgar Chatto of Bohol, and Monico Puentevella of Bacolod City as well as former Rep. Sergio Apostol of Leyte and former Ilocos Sur Gov. Chavit Singson, among others, for a briefing on how their provinces voted. What emerged from them was a picture that was supported later by the SWS exit poll. As Mahar Mangahas explained it over TV, the margins of FPJ in Northern and Southern Luzon, such as in the Ilocos and Nueva Ecija would be wiped out by GMA's huge wins in the Visayas and Mindanao.

* * *

The SWS exit poll showed, among other things, that the vice presidential candidates followed the trend set by their presidential partners. Sen. Noli de Castro, who emerged victorious in the exit poll, was projected to win in the very same areas that GMA was said to win and this was also true for Loren Legarda in the areas where FPJ was strong.

* * *

The SWS exit poll was a boon to the K-4 camp, but the KNP was predictably unhappy, admonishing its rival not to bring out the champagne yet. Mangahas, FPJ's first cousin, and Mercy Abad, the directress of TNS-Trends Corp. which does the field work for SWS, have staked their reputation on this exit poll, their second since the 1998 elections.

In view of the slow Comelec canvass and Namfrel quick count, the question is, just how credible is the SWS exit poll? Sen. Francis Pangilinan opined on TV that it's quite credible, citing his personal experience. The SWS had him in 7th place during the 2001 senatorial elections, and he landed in No. 8. Pretty close, he said.

Taguba's report on Abu Ghraib

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

I STAYED up very late the other night to watch live on CNN the US Senate investigation of the torture committed by US military personnel at the Abu Ghraib prison, with US Army Maj. Gen. Antonio Taguba, Undersecretary of Defense Stephen Cambone and Lt. Gen. Lance Smith testifying.

Philippine-born Taguba, a true-brown *kayumanggi*, is the author of the report that details the shameless acts done to Iraqi detainees by members of the 800th MP Brigade assigned in Abu Ghraib. He reaped a rain of praises for his no-nonsense report and testimony and for calling intentional abuse intentional abuse.

You must have seen those disgusting photographs that came out starting last week—photographs of naked Iraqi detainees being humiliated, tortured, piled one on top of another like carcass. Being photographed and videotaped while in that humiliated state added to the intensity of the torment. The bad news is that there's more than what we saw in photos.

How could something like this have happened in this day and age? Yes, Saddam Hussein and Adolf Hitler do not have a monopoly of evil. Their evil spirit lives on in some US military personnel. If I were an American, I would be red-faced. If I were an American citizen, I would write my very own individual letter of apology to the world, to the people of Iraq and to the detainees in Abu Ghraib prison.

Senators, among them Sen. Hillary Clinton, focused on the acts of humiliation and torture detailed on page 16 and 17 of Taguba's 53-page report. I later downloaded the report from the Internet. Here are those portions that the world ought to read not only for their shock value but also so that people may be forewarned about more 9/11s. This is the very thing that begets hatred.

Here's Taguba reporting:

"I find that the intentional abuse of detainees by military police personnel included the following acts:

"a) Punching, slapping, and kicking detainees, jumping on their naked feet; b) Videotaping and photographing naked male and female detainees; c) Forcibly arranging detainees in various sexually explicit positions for photographing; d) Forcing detainees to remove their clothing and keeping them naked for several days at a time; e) Forcing naked male detainees to wear women's underwear; f) Forcing groups of male detainees to masturbate themselves while being photographed and videotaped; g) Arranging naked male detainees in a pile and then jumping on them;

"h) Positioning a naked detainee on a MRE Box, with a sandbag on his head, and attaching wire to his fingers, toes and penis to simulate electric torture; i) Writing 'I am a Rapest' (*sic*) on the leg of a detainee alleged to have forcibly raped a 15-year-old fellow detainee, and then photographing him naked; j) Placing a dog chain or strap around a naked detainee's neck and having a female soldier pose for a picture; k) A male MP guard having sex with a female detainee; l) Using military working dogs (without muzzles) to intimidate and frighten detainees, and in at one case, biting and severely injuring a detainee; m) Taking photographs of dead Iraqi detainees."

There's more, like breaking chemical lights and pouring the phosphoric liquid on detainees, sodomizing a detainee with a chemical light and a broom stick, and using military working dogs to frighten and intimidate with threats of attack, and in one instance, to bite a detainee.

These torturers could not even spell "rapist" correctly and they were sent there, to run a prison facility and handle detainees? Taguba's testimony pointed to this lack of proper training and preparation of personnel. He also told the Senate that the cameras used were privately owned. *Trip lang nila.*

And there was this problem that the detainees concerned could not be classified as prisoners of war (POW) who had specific rights under the articles of the Geneva Conventions. The detainees were mostly captured offenders and suspected terrorists. But POW or not, human beings, terrorists included, have the right to be treated humanely.

Taguba also pointed out that very few, if at all, had read a copy of the Geneva Conventions in that neck of Iraq. What? (Why, I even have a copy of my own. The Red Cross has plenty.)

A big let-down for me is that the 800th MP Brigade is under the command of Gen. Janis Karpinski, a woman. One of the six or seven suspected perpetrators of the inhumane acts is a woman-soldier. Oh no.

The 53-year-old Taguba has been made much of especially by the Filipino-American communities and publications in the United States since his report came out. Born in Sampaloc, Manila, in 1950, Taguba's roots are in Cagayan. The general is the son of World War II veteran Tomas Taguba, survivor of the Bataan Death March and recipient of a Bronze Star and a Prisoner of War medal. The elder Taguba had served in South Korea, Germany and Okinawa, spending many years as a motor-pool sergeant. He rose to the rank of sergeant 1st class before he retired in 1962.

In an article in AsianWeek, Bert Eljera says Antonio Taguba was 11 when his family moved to Hawaii. After high school, he enrolled at Idaho State University where he graduated in 1972. He joined the US Army and rose through the ranks. He attended prestigious military training schools. He holds three master's degrees. He commanded a tank company of a mechanized division in Germany and was a battalion commander and then executive officer of the combined Republic of Korea-US Forces in Korea. Taguba is the second Filipino-American general in the US Army.

It was his mother and his grandmother, Taguba said, who had the most influence on his life.

* * *

Send comments to cerespd@info.com.ph

We wuz robbed!

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

NORMALLY former Justice and Comelec Chair Bernardo Pardo looks like a confused chicken. On election day, however, he looked like a happily lost chicken, the kind that's had a good meal and is wandering around the yard looking for shiny grains of sand to peck at. My heart went out to him as he clucked around, pausing to blink, smile at, then kiss Sen. Loi Ejercito. Readers may remember how people made fun of his rather confused leadership of the Comelec—and how his stewardship, in retrospect, looks like firm command and control in comparison to today's discombobulated Comelec. Mr. Pardo, take a bow.

Xavier School, in Greenhills, where I vote, is a great place for rubbernecking on election day. Besides the charming sight of Pardo, there was, of course, the chance to gawk at Senator Ejercito (of whom I am a fan) and follow the bouncy progress of Jinggoy Estrada as he proprietarily weaved his way around the desks, smiling cheerfully. An oriental looking man with a Focap ID stealthily stalked voters, looking over their shoulders and noting their choices on a little notebook. An enterprising kid, in turn, followed the reporter and reported back: "Mama, GMA by plenty plenty!" Surprise, surprise.

One lady in the long line I was in was unable to vote, to her disappointment. Another kid bragged to a friend, "My parents are for Brother Eddie because we're religious." A group of the elderly shorts-and-knee-high-white-socks brigade chuckled to each other over the witty text message of the day: "FPJ KAMI! VOTE EARLY ON TUESDAY!" Later on, a friend who had gleefully passed on the text remarked in sorrow to me, "You know, I didn't realize I had so many stupid friends. When they got my text they kept texting back, 'What? You're for FPJ?'" I remarked that if those people actually thought voting day was Tuesday, he shouldn't be too concerned about their reactions.

The morning of election day began with Bam Aquino on his breakfast show and ended with Bam and Mari Kaimo on another show, with an ANC interval with David Celdran and Karmina Constantino in between. As the day wore on, I realized that if the elections were the Olympics, coverage could have been plastered with endorsements such as "Today's exercise in democracy is brought to you by Seattle's Best Coffee!" with similar endorsements by Café Puro and other caffeine delivery systems of choice.

By 4 a.m., when I was back at ANC, this time with Gene Orejana, it was obvious that only long experience, discipline and caffeine were keeping broadcasters and pundits afloat. It became particularly obvious that everyone was running ragged when, hopping from ANC back to Studio 23, I found myself with Argee Guevara and Bam Aquino again, and the political punditry began to take on an otherwordly, almost science fiction element (mercifully for our reputations, mainly off camera). The "partial, unofficial" returns had started trickling in, and everything, from a possible, stunning Loren Legarda upset over Noli de Castro to dark rumors of plots, counterplots, and razor-thin margins leading to unrealized mandates, took on a life of their own.

Mainly, though, the malicious humor of journalists and broadcasters took over. The chief topic of conversation from election day to last night (until hijacked by fears of an opposition rally in Makati) was campaign jingles. Top favorites were Mar Roxas' and Pia Cayetano's. Argee, for one, did a tremendously successful imitation of the "Pia-Pia-Pia-Cayetano!" jingle, complete with head-bobbing which captured the strangely hypnotic success of the tune. Over the course of the day, I'd catch various cameramen and soundmen doing their own versions as they went about their work: "Kain-kain-kain na tayo!", "Tulog-tulog-tulog tayo!", and the particularly irreverent, as one fellow excused himself, 'Jingle-jingle-jingle kamo!"

Mar Roxas wasn't spared this strange homage, as his song's tagline became appropriate for nearly everything: "Ang lamig, ang lamig, hoy, hoy hoy hoy hoy hoy!" to, as Jinggoy Estrada's name kept popping up in the "magic 12," the immortal, "Oh my god, it's Jinggoy, hoy hoy hoy hoy hoy! Si Jinggoy, senador, hoy hoy hoy hoy hoy!"

From ANC's "Breakfast," it was home for a quick breakfast, and then on to giving my opinion for tonight's episode of Inquirer TV,—then back again to ANC to rejoin David and Karmina. That was when the real fun began. Fernando Poe Jr.'s press conference ushered in a period of hysteria as it was followed by the SWS exit poll, Mike Romero's counteroffensive with their Proberz poll (Why hasn't anyone questioned Proberz about its name alone? It's name alone makes you wonder whether we'll have "d'Excellent Polling Data" or "Da Winnah Communications" next and be expected to take them seriously. Oh, c'mon, as Marcos used to say) and then the irrepressible big guns of the administration, from Defense Secretary Eduardo Ermita (who I think is a great guy, despite one set kibitzer's whispered comment, "*Aba, hairy pala ang ears niya!*") to the exceedingly charming Speaker Jose de Venecia, who is so bubbly that when he spontaneously jumped out of his seat to show a prayer to us, Karmina had to stifle a squawk of surprise and David raised an eyebrow in Spock-like surprise.

Mercifully, a few hours later, it was all over in Makati. A friend texted, "Oh no, work tomorrow."

Unfortunately, for me, that was not to be the case. Waking up at 1 p.m., I looked at my watch in alarm, and yelled that classic election time complaint: "I wuz robbed!" Of sleep, that is, not votes. My poor colleagues in the Ayala Museum, I just found out, had been wondering where I was. Missing in action. So sorry.

* * *

Comments welcome at www.quezon.ph

Discovery

YOUNG BLOOD

Jessica Brillantes

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

"KANOJO. *Kanojo.*" That's her. The airport personnel I had been instructed to follow gestured at me and left me with a pretty, young Japanese lady dressed in a Thai Airways uniform.

"Hello," she said shyly. Completely disoriented by the signs written in Kanji and the unfamiliar throng of Japanese that greeted me at the Kansai airport, I was more than relieved to have her assistance. We walked quickly through the immaculate airport splashed in cheerful shades of purple, red and yellow, and before I knew it, I was out of customs. Though it was what I had expected, I marveled at the discipline and efficiency with which the Japanese worked.

After finally spotting my father, we boarded an airport limousine and began the hour-long drive to what would be our home for the next six months, happy to be together after about a month of separation. As we drove off, a dapper-looking traffic officer dressed in a smart blue suit, white cap and gloves bowed deeply and serenely from the airport sidewalk.

"It's a beautiful culture," my father whispered.

I looked out at the neat rows and rows of buildings of industrial Osaka as we coasted down the highway, my window fogging up with every breath. The sea glistened in the moon's midnight light, and slowly, I began to fall in love with the Land of the Sun all over again.

It was almost two years since I had gone to Japan as an exchange student when the opportunity to go back came through an enticing invitation for my father to teach in Kobe as a visiting professor. After being immersed in Japanese society for a month back in my high school days, I missed the country, the people and the culture I had learned to love. More than that, I longed to rekindle ties with my host family and classmates. The friendships we had formed, built on thoughts and feelings shared in broken phrases of English and Nihonggo, were precious in spite of—and perhaps because of—our cultural differences. They are bonds I share with no other.

That experience changed how I saw the world and myself and what I wanted to do in life. I knew I couldn't have my father go back without me.

And so here I am again today, in a country that has already given me so much, writing from my father's office against a spectacular view of snow falling on Mount Rokko. There are three more months to go before we go back home and become a whole family again. I miss my friends, my grandparents, my mother and my sisters terribly, but living away from them these past months has taught me things that I might have otherwise learned too late in life.

After my AFS scholarship in Japan, I returned home realizing there was so much of the world to see; that you don't have to share the same blood or last name to be part of a family; that we may look different on the outside but share the same joys and pains; that we may speak different languages but yearn for the same things; that the overlap and mix of foreign cultures doesn't diminish one's own, but rather, makes us a richer people; and that respect is vital for world peace to become possible.

This time, I am learning that the world does not revolve around me; that there won't always be somebody around to clean up my mess; that I won't understand other cultures without understanding my own; that you have to have faith in people; that I don't say "Thank you" enough; that things won't happen unless you make them happen; that the novelty of snow and winter wears out quickly; that Ruffles and Doritos are not dinner; that you don't throw sweaters into the washing machine; that chili doesn't taste the same without kidney beans; that you don't arrive at 1:15 for a 1:00 meeting; that getting lost isn't always a bad thing; that I love my family more than anything on this earth; and that it is always possible to find a home away from home. The litany goes on.

Once I leave Kobe, there will be no trace left of me. The hovering crows I have watched on so many afternoons, the old lady gardening next door, the man in a faded blue hat selling vegetables each Sunday, the house by the river that smells of beer, the bakeshop called "Poem"—everyone and everything will go on, and nobody will ever know that once upon a time, a brown-skinned *gai-jin* (foreign) girl traveled to Japan seeking adventure, only to find herself in the end.

But she will remember. And she will always be thankful.

Jessica Brillantes, 18, is a second-year BS Psychology student at the University of the Philippines.

THEY SAID

Incurable

"Corruption can be contained or blocked and, if need be, a president can be impeached for that. On the other hand, there is no cure for a bumbling president who doesn't have the intellectual wherewithal for leadership."

—Sen. Joker Arroyo, urging voters to choose President Macapagal-Arroyo instead of Fernando Poe Jr.

Privilege

"It is a privilege to sing for people in need."

—Italian opera singer Andrea Bocelli, speaking at a press conference before his two-hour concert at the Araneta Coliseum

Copycats

"They can copy our message but they cannot copy the messenger."

—Presidential candidate Bro. Eddie Villanueva, on rivals copying his slogan

Losing

"My house was one big funeral parlor."

—Speaker Jose de Venecia, on the agony he experienced after losing the 1998 presidential elections

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The National Association of Philippine Newspapers

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I doubt if Bocelli had ever suffered such indignity in other countries, certainly not that long a delay. In many countries, the doors to such an event would have been closed at the official start time and latecomers would have had to wait for the interval to gain admission.

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Filipinos are notorious for bad timekeeping but do they really have to display their tardiness so blatantly at such an international event? If the Philippines wants to be better recognized and respected by the world community, then it has to start showing that it can match the standards practiced in more progressive countries. For such an important event to be marred, before it could even start, by frustrated clapping and jeering does nothing to impress the rest of the world.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

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- San Miguel ALL-NIGHT PARTY with Cebu's Popular Bands
- Cebu Chamber Family Day (May 16, 2004)

Ist Cebu Pacific
National Kayak Race

The Cebu Chamber of Commerce and Industry

PLDT SMART CEBU PACIFIC
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OPINION

LETTERS

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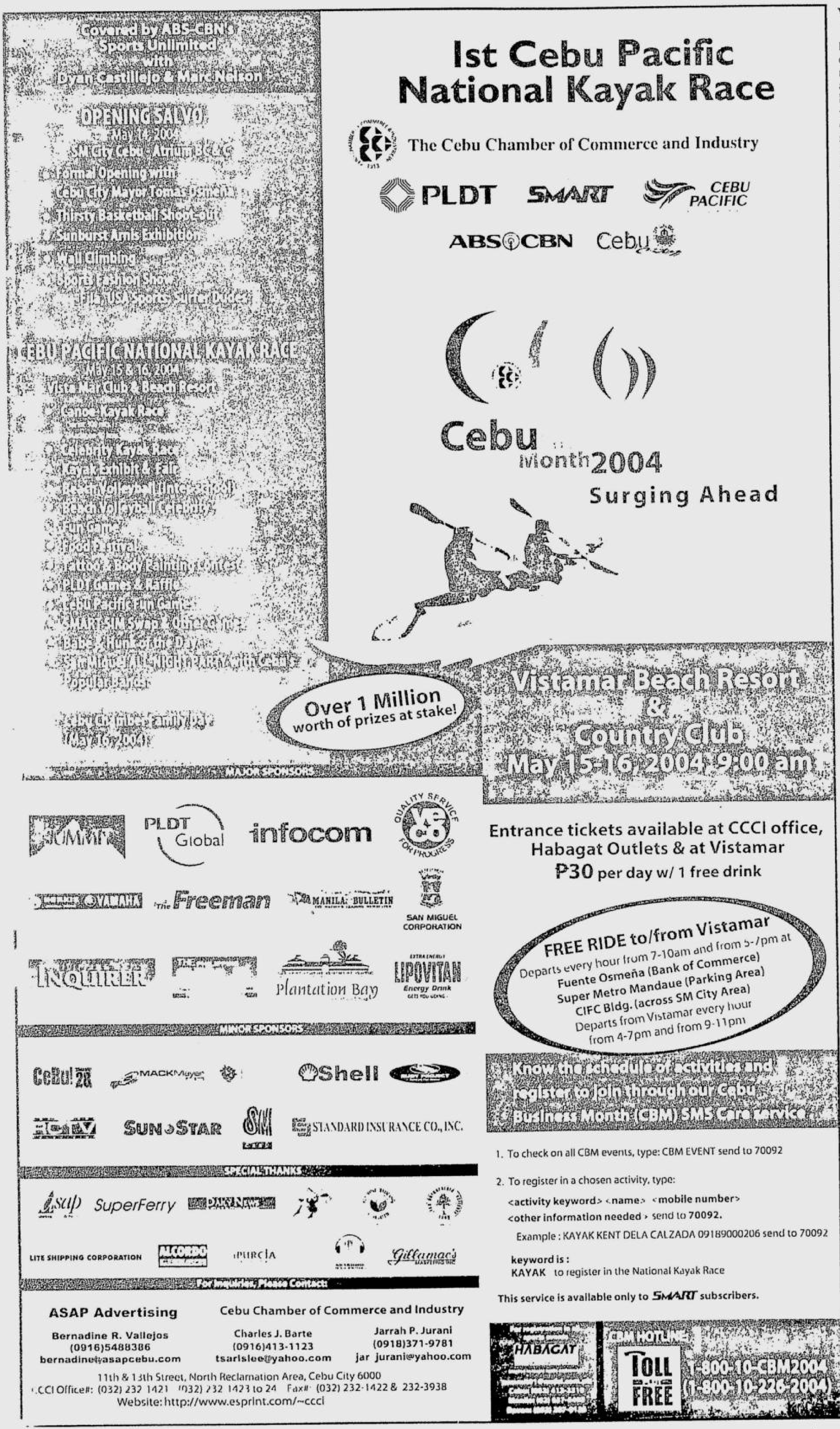

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(May 16, 2004)

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Fax No. (052) 820-1274
E-mail: inq_bicol@inquirer.com.ph

Across the NATION

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph

Assistant Editor **Tony Bergonia**

VISAYAS BUREAU
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St., Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346/233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9938
E-mail: pdivis@skyinet.net

MINDANAO BUREAU
FEP Printing Corp. Bldg.
Ma-a Road, Davao City
Tel. No. (082)244-1770 to 71
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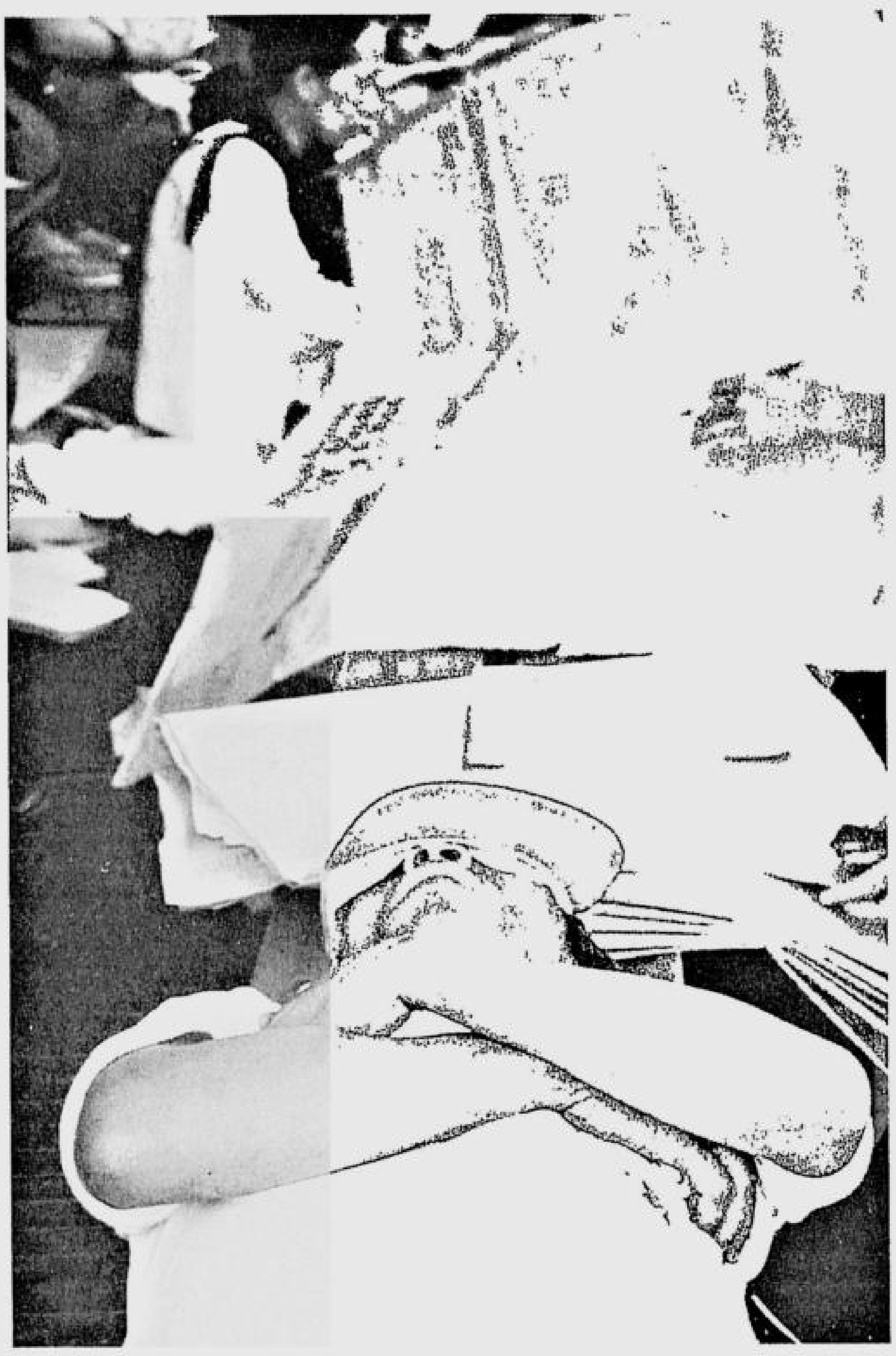
Signs of cheating unleash protests



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FRITZ AL G ERMAC/CONTRIBUTOP

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E-mail: inq_bicol@inquirer.com.ph

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Across the NATION

Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

VISAYAS BUREAU
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St., Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346/233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9938
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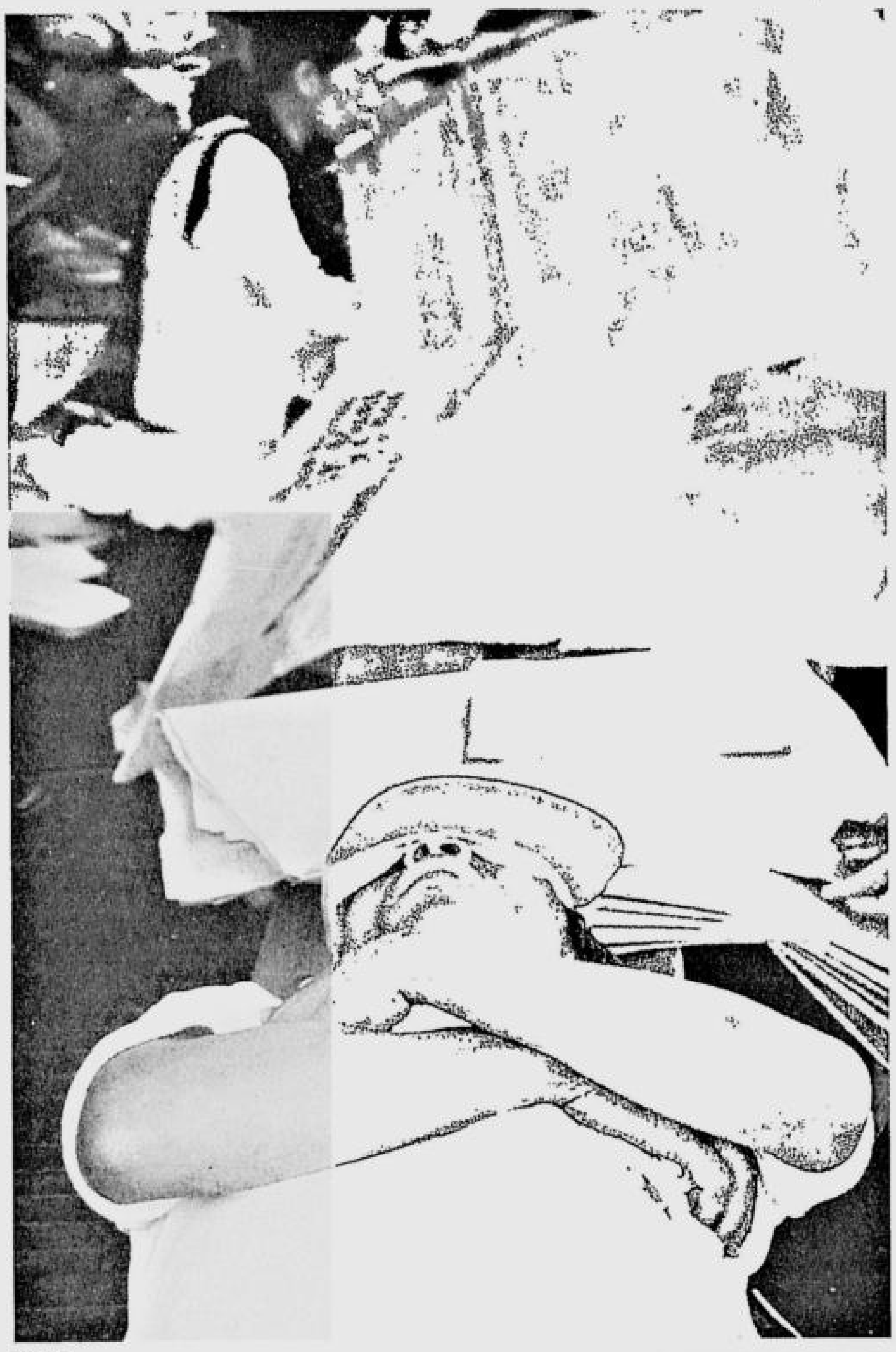

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INQUIRER Southern Luzon

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Floreño G. Solmirano

Justice eludes teacher killed in '95 polls

By Mei Magsino
Mabini, Batangas

SINCE HER daughter, schoolteacher Filomena Tatlonghari, was killed on May 9, 1995, Veronica Atienza has stopped voting. She blames the death and injustice to the "cursed" elections.

"What hurts us more is the fact that the man who killed her and those who conspired in the killing are all on the loose, courtesy of the government," Atienza said. The people who promised them help have not been true to their word, she added.

In between cursing and crying, Atienza, as well as the rest of the family, made a vow before Filomena's grave that she would never again vote or join any government activity until justice has been served.

Fight for ballot box

"She held on to the ballot box, as if it was her own child, and refused to give it to the ballot snatchers, until one of them shot her," Filomena's husband Sofronio said, "Up to the end, she was still fighting for what she believed in. She fought for clean elections, for the truth, and protected the people's vote contained in the ballot box."

Filomena taught music and English to Grades 5 and 6 pupils of the Talaga Elementary School in Mabini, Batangas, and also served as guidance counselor. In the 1995 polls, she was on duty as chair of the Board of Election Inspectors of Precinct No. 40-A.

Records from the Regional Trial Court Branch 7 show that on May 9, 1995, at 1:30 a.m., hours after the counting of the votes cast the previous day, Alexander Calangi went to the school, along with Calixto Bantugon, a nephew of then Lakas-NUCD mayoral candidate Leonardo Bantugon Sr., who was driving an Isuzu truck, and another unnamed companion.

Calangi grabbed the three ballot boxes, election returns and tally board from the teachers manning Precinct Nos. 38-A-1, 39-A and 40-A and rushed to the waiting truck.

Testifying before the court, the teachers said Calangi threatened them with harm. Some of them got scared and did not fight back, while others hid in the comfort rooms.

Filomena would not be intimidated. She ran after Calangi to recover the ballot boxes.

Last testimony

Suddenly, a gunshot rang out. When they came out of the classrooms, the teachers saw Filomena bleeding on the ground. She had been hit in the right side of her waist.

"What the court didn't take into consideration was that Fe (Filomena) was able to make a testimony before she died. She said that it was Alexander Calangi who snatched the ballot box from her and that it was Leonardo Bantugon Jr., who shot her," Sofronio said. "She held on to life until 4:30 in the morning when she was rushed to the St. Patrick's Hospital in Batangas City."

FILOMENA Tatlonghari MEI MAGSINO

Her testimony was taken by police investigator Mario de los Reyes, he said, but it was never used in court.

"Four days after that, Leonardo was able to escape to Rome," Sofronio said. "And after an extensive manhunt, Calangi surrendered to the National Bureau of Investigation. The other one was never caught."

Bantugon, the son of then mayoral candidate Leonardo Bantugon Sr., was mysteriously not included in the criminal charges filed before the court. Neither was his name mentioned in the defense of Calangi, who was charged with conspiracy to commit murder and violation of the Election Code for snatching the ballots.

Up to now, the three ballot boxes are still missing. In her affidavit, Nimfa Lagasca, Commission on Elections officer of Mabini and then chair of the municipal board of canvassers, said her office received all the ballot boxes used in the 1995 polls, except those from Precinct Nos. 38-A-1, 39-A and 40-A.

Lagasca said she was informed by Calangi that he was instructed by then candidate for councilor Ruel Sandoval to safeguard the ballot boxes from the precincts. Sandoval had heard over his two-way radio that followers of a rival candidate, Pol Dalisay, were allegedly plotting to snatch the boxes themselves and create trouble.

Sandoval, who won as mayor in the 1998 elections, is now seeking a third term.

Injustice

In 1999, Calangi was acquitted of the charge of conspiracy to commit murder. But on Jan. 29, 2003, he was convicted of violating the Election Code for ballot snatching and sentenced to suffer one-year imprisonment.

Since Calangi was already confined at the NBI jail for three months and at the provincial jail for one year and eight days, his lawyers lobbied that the period was enough to cover his sentence, Sofronio said.

"And now, Calangi is on the loose. In some days, we even see him on the streets or passing by our house. I don't harbor any grudge against anyone, but the injustice still pains me, like my heart is being crushed everyday," he said.

According to Sofronio, police authorities have found it difficult to arrest the alleged gunman, Bantugon, because the Philippines has no extradition treaty with Italy.

A report from the Interpol office in Rome, dated April 1, 1996, revealed that Bantugon, also known in Mabini as Dayo, fled to Italy on May 13, 1995 and was staying at the Via Genova Travirsa, No. 2 and No. 6, Reggio, Calabria, Italy.

"How was he able to get out of the country that fast? Obviously, someone with a high government position helped him," Sofronio surmised. "And the warrant for his arrest came too late, very, very late in October 1995."

Payment

Up to now, Sofronio still has the P500 bill he got from the Comelec as payment for his late wife's poll duty.

"Is that all my wife was worth? Is P500 enough for the life of the woman who fought for the ballot box and was killed for that? Nine years after that, the pain in my heart is still here, and it gets worse during election time," Sofronio said.

But he said he didn't want to dissuade teachers from serving during the elections. "I want to encourage them to guard the ballot ... (and) the people to help them fight for their right to suffrage. I think it's unfair that of all the millions of government employees, only the teachers are ordered to work on the frontlines and risk their lives."

Filomena's heroism captured the hearts of Filipinos in 1995. During her wake, then Education Secretary Ricardo Gloria came and promised justice for her and protection for her children.

Filomena was also given the Makabayan Award by the De La Salle University in Lipa City.

On Sept. 14, 1995, Sofronio and his three children met then President Fidel Ramos at the Civil Service Commission building in Quezon City to accept the Dangal ng Bayan Posthumous Award for Filomena. In 1995, Ramos' first order to newly elected Batangas Gov. Hermilando Mandanas was to make sure that justice was served Filomena. Mandanas is now on his third and last term, but the order has never been fulfilled.

"That time, President Ramos promised full scholarship for our three children," Sofronio said. "But only Gaye and Grace were given P5,000 every semester. Jordan was not given any scholarship at all."

Gaye, now 27, and Grace, 25, are already working, while Jordan, 19, is still taking architecture at the University of Sto. Tomas.

Davao bet for mayor gives up, cries foul

From page A15

rice, goods, and money was done "publicly and openly," and that the Comelec did not do anything about it "because it was allowed to continue unhampered despite having been reported."

He said his coordinators and leaders were harassed.

"Even now, after the elections, reports are still coming in about armed persons coercing people to keep their mouths shut," he said.

De Guzman said this was the first time Comelec through the Board of Canvassers "has yielded its supposed dominion over electoral proceedings to police and military officers."

"Police officers, Task Force Davao elements, and (Special Weapons and Tactics Team) members have swarmed the Sangguniang Panlungsod (building) as if it were a garrison," he said.

"There is a line between protection and intimidation," De Guzman said.

He said these were the main reasons he was abstaining himself from the electoral process.

"Any further participation in this farce will only serve to give a semblance of credibility to something already inherently incredible and, therefore, there is no other option but to desist from any such action," he said.

In Butuan City, unidentified men ransacked the Comelec's repository of ballot boxes inside the city's legislative session hall here following a two-hour power outage shortly after midnight.

The incident occurred hours after the canvassing was suspended.

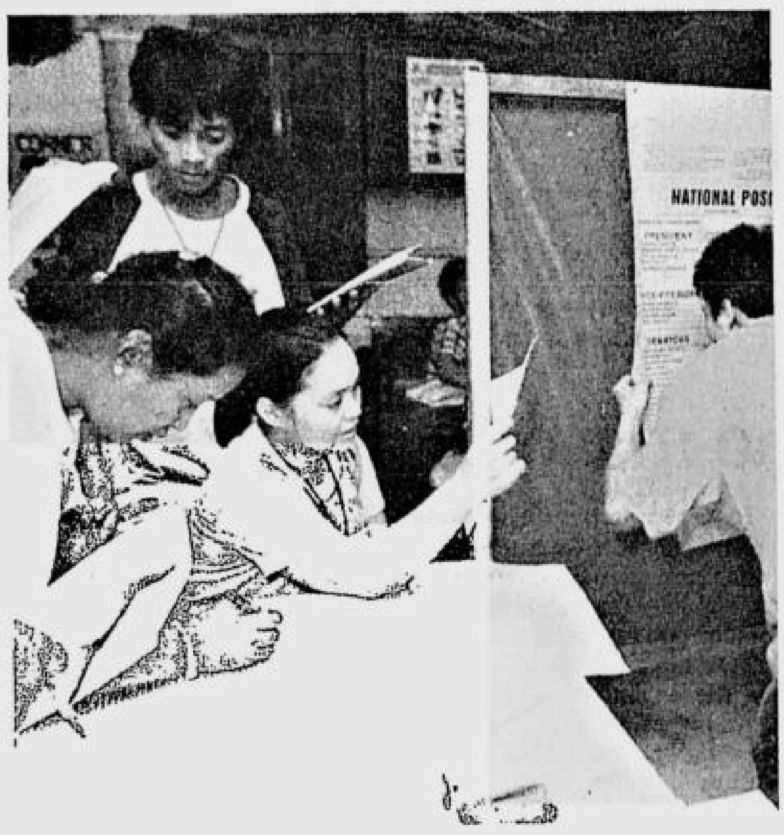
Police found two holes at the roof top and an opened glass window believed used as exit route of the intruders.

Several ballot boxes were opened and election returns lying around.

Opposition candidates said it was plain sabotage and warned of a looming political crisis.

"This is simply unforgivable. In Butuan, we have a political crisis," KNP congressional candidate Casiano Cabalan said. *Franklin M. Caliguid, PDI Mindanao Bureau and Joel B. Escovilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Cheating raps swamp Southern Luzon



VOTERS go through the process in Cavite. BETOY JOHNSON

From page A15

other areas.

Chipeco said because of the massive disenfranchisement, more than half of the city's 168,360 registered voters were not able to vote.

PPCRV

In Famy, Laguna, Fr. Jose Thor R. Villacarlos, head of the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV), reported discrepancies between the total number of voters and the number of votes. The number of voters in Barangay Minayutan (36A & 36B) was incredibly very high, he reported.

Eric Buhain, Namfrel volunteer in Famy, said his group identified at least 19 flying voters in the town.

He also reported that at around 3 a.m., one of the Namfrel watchers saw the wife of incumbent Mayor George Pangilinan in the canvassing center.

In Paete, Laguna where Monday's elections was postponed for Tuesday, teachers, poll watchers, supporters and townsfolk, accompanied by police and soldiers carried lanterns, gas lamps and flashlights as they brought the ballot boxes with election returns in procession at dawn yesterday to the municipal hall.

The elections there were reset because of a shortage of ballots.

Msgr. Jun Melicia, Namfrel chair in 16 towns including Lucena City, said they received complaints about the non-inclusion of party-list group Abay Pamilya in the Comelec list.

Surge of violence

Adolfo Ilagan, Quezon Comelec chief, admitted that the instruction from their main office stating the inclusion of the party-list group arrived late Sunday.

In Cavite, provincial police chief Senior Supt. Roberto Rosales said the police were expecting a sudden surge of violence in the province as some losing politicians might retaliate against their rivals.

Although the suspected private groups of the politicians kept their guns silent on Monday, violence might erupt as the tallying of election returns goes on.

Rosales said they were particularly monitoring the warring mayoral candidates in Trece Martires City.

Five days before the elections, supporters of the two candidates figured in a gunfight which left four people dead and at least 11 others wounded.

The incident prompted the police to put the entire province under Comelec control. *Romulo O. Ponte, Marlon Ramos, Delfin T. Mallari Jr., and Mei Magsino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Signs of cheating unleash protests

From page A15

count and the Comelec had shown Noel Villanueva winning by around 2,000 votes over his closest rival, Jeci Lapus, Villanueva's proclamation remains uncertain.

Lapus, younger brother of incumbent third district Rep. Jesli Lapus, continued to delay the canvassing on various grounds.

The canvassing of votes on Tuesday was stopped for several hours, prompting Villanueva's supporters to mass up in front of the building where the canvassing was being held.

Bulacan

In Bulacan, Fe Zamora, Bocaue election officer, stopped the canvassing of votes in the town on Tuesday night, citing alleged poll irregularities as a reason. The canvassing resumed on Wednesday morning.

Vice gubernatorial candidate Raymond Pagdanganan, son of Tourism Secretary Roberto Pagdanganan, claimed he was a victim of massive election fraud.

The young Pagdanganan was trailing reelectionist Vice Gov. Aurelio Plamenco.

Members of the Lakas-CMD in Tineg, Abra, complained to the Comelec on Wednesday that Mayor Edwin Crisologo had detained them to prevent them from voting on May 10.

Around 30 party members claimed to have been kept under armed guard on May 10 at Barangay Caganayan in Tineg.

They were released in the afternoon of the same day, at the end of polling hours, according to Soledad Benwaren, widow of slain Tineg Mayor Clarence Benwaren.

Crisologo, who succeeded Benwaren in 2002, ran for mayor against Benwaren's brother, Antonio.

Mentel Get-tang, a party poll watcher, told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview that he was taken by armed men to Crisologo's house at 8 a.m.

Police had reported an exchange of gunfire between the camps of Crisologo and Benwaren in Barangay Caganayan.

Get-tang said Benwaren was monitoring the polls at the town center when the gunfight started.

The rest of the Lakas members, including reelectionist Vice Mayor Jesus Valencia, were detained by armed men at the Lakas headquarters there.

Ballot snatching

In Nueva Vizcaya, Bishop Ramon Villena, chair of the Council for Credible and Honest Elections, condemned the ballot snatching in Barangay Binuangan in Dupax del Norte town.

Villena has asked police officials to exert effort to prevent a repeat of the incident in other areas.

In Ilocos Norte, supporters of reelectionist Ilocos Norte Rep. Roque Ablan Jr. disclosed to reporters on Tuesday a supposed plot by former Pagudpud Mayor Reynolan Sales to kill the legislator for P30 million.

But Sales' camp laughed off the report, saying the former mayor did not have the money to carry out the supposed plot. *Reports from Tonette Orejas, Jo Clemente, Russell Arador, Ronald Dizon and Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk, and Vincent Cabreza, Ben Moses Ebreo and Cristina Arzadon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

'People power' rally, ballot snatching . . .

From page A15

Gildo Abella.

But Mayor Josephine Socorro Jumamoy denied Aniasco's claim, saying nobody was hurt when the police fired warning shots after Torres' supporters tried to get inside the municipal hall.

She said the supporters failed in their attempt because the firemen hosed them down as they tried to open the front door of the municipal hall.

The Commission on Elections closed the municipal hall yesterday afternoon to prevent the supporters of Torres from getting inside and disrupting the canvassing.

About 60 policemen and soldiers were deployed to the municipal hall to maintain peace and order.

Aniasco said they had been holding a "people power" protest outside the municipal building since Monday to force the Comelec to declare failure of elections.

She claimed that the voters' list in the municipality had been padded allegedly to ensure the victory of Jumamoy who is a candidate of K-4.

Aniasco said that about 10,000 had been camping outside the municipal hall. But Jumamoy alleged that the number was only about 300.

At 5 p.m., Aniasco said they insisted in getting inside the municipal building despite the presence of policemen. Some threw stones while others forced their way in.

She said they were able to get inside when shots rang out.

The Comelec has reported a moderate turnout of voters in the Visayas.

Of the three regions, Eastern Visayas registered the highest turnout at 85 percent followed by Central Visayas at 75.

Nick Mendros, Comelec-Eastern Visayas legal officer, said about 85 percent of the more than 2.2 million registered voters in the region went out to cast their votes. *Jhunnex Napallacan, Cynthia A. Borgueta, Joey A. Gabieta, Jolene R. Bulambot and Raj Padilla, PDI Visayas Bureau*

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ELEKSYON 2004

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

Quick Count (Partial, Unofficial)

CALOOCAN CITY

Comelec, May 12, 2004, as of 3:30 pm
No of precincts: 197 out of 2906

	Congressman (District 1)	
1	Malapitan, Oscar G.	2552
2	Malonzo, Reynaldo O.	1558
3	Punzalan, Susana DG.	561
4	Castalla, Saturnino V.	46
5	Quiroben, Mauro, Jr. B.	9

	Congressman (District 2)	
1	Asistio, Luis A.	7169
2	Bagus, Tolentino J.	3480
3	Gonzales, Benedixto, Jr. M	4737

	Mayor	
1	Asistio, Macario, Jr. A.	4505
2	Echiverri, Enrico R.	7293
3	Erice, Edgar R.	5491
4	Malonzo, Gwendolyn E.	4234
5	Orbe, Romualdo C.	34
6	Peras, Enrique, Jr. G.	9

MALABON CITY

Comelec, May 12, 2004, as of 2pm
No. of precincts: 40 out of 824

	Congressman	
1	Sandoval, Frederico II S.	3082
2	Lacson, Cipriano J.	2303
3	Cinco, Roberto T.	24

	Mayor	
1	Yambao, Mark Allan Jay G.	2094
2	Oreta, Canuto S.	1992
3	Sandoval, Jeannie N.	1601
4	Rojas, Melencio Melvick, Jr. T.	5

MANDALUYONG CITY

Namfrel, May 12, 2004, as of 5:20 am
No. of precincts: 656

	Congressman	
1	Abalos, Benjamin, Jr. DC.	56746
2	Domingo, Ernesto, Jr. A.	25364
3	Lebron, Jessie B.	144
4	Seriña, Felix B.	253

	Mayor	
1	Gonzales, Neptali H.	56609
2	Buan, Angelyn D.	23619
3	Abalos, Arsenio S.	3103
4	Calibo, Narciso M.	719

CITY OF MANILA

Namfrel, May 12, 2004, as of 2:30 pm

	Congressman (District 1)	
1	Nieva, Ernesto A.	22818
2	Quirante, Rodolfo G.	1491
3	Liguidliguid, Abraham E.	113

	Congressman (District 2)	
1	Lopez, Jaime C.	19105
2	Lacson, Marlon M.	17979
3	Mendoza, Robert Brent M.	116

	Congressman (District 3)	
1	Roces, Miles M.	5797

	Congressman (District 4)	
1	Bacani, Rodolfo C.	9441
2	Bagatsing, Manuel S.	7373
3	Icaonapo, Jose, Jr. P.	1105
4	Sarza, Joel A.	25

	Congressman (District 5)	
1	Hizon, Joey D.	15725
2	Atienza, Alejandro I.	15139
3	Encarnacion, Gloria R.	145
4	Alvarado, Junel C.	58

	Congressman (District 6)	
1	Abante, Bienvenido, Jr. M.	7152
2	Ocampo, Rosenda Ann M.	5986
3	Veloso, Lucano M.	3431
4	Logarta, Julio, Jr. E.	1782
5	Lao, Caridad DR.	15
6	Nuñez, Romeo P.	15
7	Sunga, Emmanuel B.	12
8	Galla, Oswaldo D.	7

	Mayor	
1	Atienza, Jose, Jr. C.	102330
2	Lopez, Gemillano, Jr. C.	47277
3	Cantal, Felix C.	581
4	Abad, Onofre E.	257
5	Gamo, Antonio G.	168
6	Fernandez, Eduardo P.	128

MUNTINLUPA CITY

Namfrel, May 11, 2004, as of 3:24 pm
No. of precincts; 1114 out of 1124

	Congressman	
1	Biazon, Rozanno Rufino B.	97290
2	Boncayao, Patricio, Jr. L.	50207
3	Fernandez, Jacob L.	1674

	Mayor	
1	Fresnedi, Jaime DR.	81066
2	Masangkay, Elizabeth A.	60338
3	Chua, Vicente Y.	17202
4	Balbanero, Pedro R.	1090
5	Marmeto, Oscar A.	330

PARANAQUE CITY

Namfrel, May 12, 2004, as of 1:08 pm

	Congressman (District 1)	
1	Zialcita, Eduardo C.	11642
2	Banaga, Tomas, Jr. T.	8260
3	Nery, Jaime, Jr. J.	6681
4	Ferrrer, Walfrido N.	2842
5	Varona, Netz P.	204
6	Pureza, Rogelio A.	136
7	Caunan, Menandro C.	133
8	Reyes, Bernardo P.	122

	Congressman (District 2)	
1	Golez, Roilo S.	25546
2	Marquez, Joey P.	14557
3	Ballelos, Manuel Jr. E.	161
4	Montano, Pedro C.	101
5	Mesana, Elpidio, Jr. M.	76
6	Matti, Jose Luis Jr. K.	31
7	Sarmiento, Jose N	2
8	Marquez, Doroteo Q	0

	Mayor	
1	Bernabe, Florencio, Jr. M.	33371
2	Olivarez, Pablo R.	29677
3	Marquez, Vanesa L.	11783
4	De Asis, Maritess B.	361
5	Matias, Ma. Luisa B.	144
6	Flores, Fregie C.	143
7	Nery, Jose, Sr. C.	107
8	Villaflor, Ricardo V.	107

PASAY CITY

Namfrel, May 12, 2004, as of 7 am
No. of precincts: 1278 out of 1372

	Congressman	
1	Dy, Consueto A.	82540
2	Calixto-Rubiano, Emi G.	62521
3	Evangelista, Justo D.	882
4	Cornejo, Crisanto S.	631

	Mayor	
1	Trinidad, Wenceslao B.	83877
2	Santos, Ricardo E.	66370
3	Marcelo, Romulo, Sr. M.	857
4	Alejaga, Rosemary L.	682
5	Penaflor, Noel-Franciso T.	539

PASIG CITY

Namfrel, May 12, 2004, as of 4:15 pm
No. of precincts: 907 out of 1974

	Congressman	
1	Jaworski, Robert Vincent Jude B.	28714
2	Romulo, Roman T.	20747
3	Cariño, Noel M.	20102
4	Bernardo, Lorna A.	19713
5	Asuncion, Francis M.	335
6	Salcedo, Divino N.	97

	Mayor	
1	Eusebio, Vicente P.	43057
2	Lanot, Henry P.	41596
3	Benavides, Charmie Q.	2615
4	Iglesias, Alexander C.	1591
5	Bueno, Belen S.	1283
6	Fabella, Vicente F.	166
7	Obispo, Vener DV.	139

QUEZON CITY

Namfrel, May 12, 2004 as of 12nn.

	Congressman (District 1)	
1	Crisologo, Vincent P.	5233
2	Puyat, Berna C.	4509
3	Sarino, Wilma A.	1546
4	Ramos, Montano DG.	817
5	Samson, Moises S.	716
6	Guerrero, Arturo III C.	103

	Congressman (District 2)	
1	Susano, Mary Ann L.	23037
2	Mathay, Ismael III G.	22252
3	Liban, Dante V.	14367
4	Agcaoilli, Delfin, Jr. R.	216
5	Jimenez, Walter Wahab O.	195

	Congressman (District 3)	
1	Defensor, Ma. Theresa T.	13842
2	Planas, Michael F.	9650
3	Baja, Emmanuel S.	366

	Congressman (District 4)	
1	Daza, Nanette C.	13464
2	Suntay, Jesus C.	5480
3	Rillo, Marcel C.	802
4	Infante, Jose L.	45

	Mayor	
1	Belmonte, Feliciano, Jr. R.	98748
2	Mathay, Ismael, Jr. A.	25837
3	Co, Andres K.	291

SAN JUAN

Namfrel, May 12, 2004, as of 3 pm
No. of precincts: 487 out of 519

	Congressman	
1	Zamora, Ronaldo B.	19755
2	Alcovendaz, Ericson A.	15026
3	Jimenez, Adam, Jr. M.	1302
4	Gonzales, Jose Mari C.	1232

	Mayor	
1	Ejercito, Joseph Victor G.	30457
2	San Juan, Enrico A.	6484
3	Marasigan, Edgardo G.	583

PATEROS-TAGUIG

Namfrel, May 11, 2004, as of 11 pm
No. of precincts: 1081 out of 1604

	Congressman	
1	Cayetano, Alan Peter S.	52759
2	Garcia, Isidro B.	34960

PATEROS

Comelec, May 11, 2004, as of 10 pm
No. of precincts: 41 out of 176

	Mayor	
1	Capco, Rosendo T.	2355
2	Buenaventura, Willie E.	1619
3	Borja, Benjamin, Jr. U.	1123
4	Ponce, Rustico V.	244

TAGUIG

Namfrel, May 11, 2004, as of 11 p.m.
No. of precincts: 1081 out of 1604

	Mayor	
1	Tiñga, Sigfrido	58933
2	Labao-Alzona, Ma. Loldao	32532
3	Quilitano, Ferdinand	296
4	Casas, Rene	185

NAVOTAS

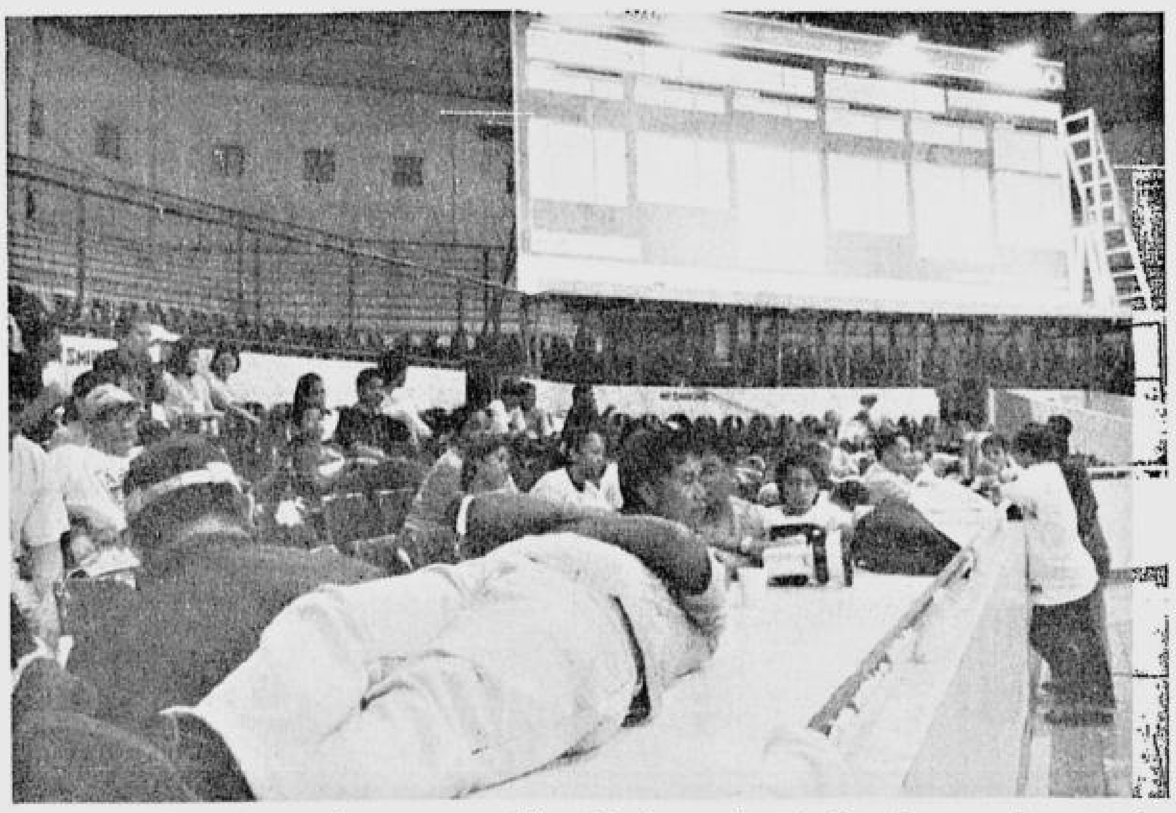
Comelec, May 12, 2004, as of 4:30 pm
No. of clusters: 210 out of 544

	Mayor	
1	Tiangco, Tobia M.	25558
2	Monroy, Salvador DJ.	7549
3	Marquez, Fredie A.	63

	Congressman	
1	Sandoval, Frederico II S.	21079
2	Lacson, Cipriano J.	11015
3	Cinco, Roberto T	56

KNP conducts own tally

FPJ says count depends on 'honesty' of volunteers



AN ELECTION watcher snatches some rest while waiting for results at the Comelec canvassing center for Manila at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium, Manila.

BOY CABRIDO

By Cenon B. Bibe Jr.

A DAY after the elections ended and various quick counts and exit polls were creating a frenzy, opposition standard-bearer Fernando Poe Jr. went on television and urged media to be honest and tell people the "real score."

The "real score," according to Poe, was that he and his runningmate Sen. Loren Legarda were leading in the tally. He then lamented that what was coming out in media was the opposite.

Poe was apparently referring to the tally being conducted at the Makati Coliseum by his party, the Kilusan ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino (KNP), which is largely basing its count on the "honesty" of volunteers nationwide.

As of 4:45 p.m. yesterday, the count at the KNP's People's Tally and Action Center showed Poe with 690,612 votes, ahead of chief rival President Macapagal-Arroyo, who had 477,930 votes.

The KNP tally showed other presidential candidates Sen. Panfilo Lacson with 220,096 votes, Raul Roco with 94,517, and Eddie Villanueva, 86,528.

Jessie Villanueva, tally center secretary, said the figures represented 1,569,683 votes counted or 3.65 percent of the "total voting population."

'More accurate'

The INQUIRER talked to Allan Mauricio, who is running the tally center, and he said that their operations were "more accurate" since their figures were based on actual and complete results from the precinct level.

"Volunteers who have pre-registered with us send in the results by text or e-mail," he said.

Asked if the information sent in by their volunteers could be trusted, Mauricio said they were working on an "honesty system," stressing these people were working without pay or allowance.

To make sure that the results are authentic, Mauricio said they require their volunteers to provide them with the Election Return (ER) Number.

Tally reports that do not have the ER number are set aside and verified, Mauricio stressed.

All valid text and e-mail information automatically enter a remote computer server in a "secret place." The information is then sent electronically to the tally center, where it is projected on an overhead screen.

However, despite their having the ER numbers, Mauricio could not be specific on the results that reach the tally center. "The figures are nationwide," he said.

Caloocan and Cainta tallies . . .

From page A18

where he was leading Malapitan, spaces for the precinct number and other information were left blank therefore making the returns invalid and excluding them from the count.

In most election returns, he also noted that the names for the congressional candidates were not arranged alphabetically, unlike in the other posts.

Malonzo said these would prove a grand design of connivance between Malapitan's camp and some teachers.

Malapitan denied Malonzo's allegations, saying the incumbent mayor could not just accept defeat.

In an earlier interview, Echiverri said Malonzo's statements were just "desperate moves."

In the meantime, Cainta mayoral candidate Mon Ilagan appealed for incumbent Mayor Nicanor Felix to pull out members of the Guardians fraternity from the Cainta town hall to allow a free canvass of the ballots.

Ilagan, 44, was leading over Felix when the municipal canvassing was stopped Tuesday noon as lawyers from both sides argued heatedly over alleged discrepancies in the election returns.

"There's tension here," Ilagan said after the canvassing resumed yesterday.

Ilagan said Guardians were massed in front of the town hall, intimidating his poll watchers and followers.

A broadcaster for 20 years, Ilagan claimed that he was leading by 6,000 votes at the start of the canvass. He said he was also leading at the precinct level, but his lead appeared shaved by the hour.

Some 100 poll watchers and loyal followers of Ilagan and Felix camped at the Cainta Municipal Hall Tuesday to guard the contested election returns kept inside 17 ballot boxes.

Six soldiers kept their guard near ballot boxes, which have been secured by a chain.

Alma not conceding mayoral race

By Leila B. Salaverria

UNLIKE her erstwhile husband, actress Alma Moreno would not be conceding from the mayoral race in Parañaque despite her less than stellar performance in the quick counts.

"We will wait for the official Comelec results," said Dr. Rodolfo Punzalan, Moreno's spokesperson. "(Moreno) is not conceding."

Her former husband and incumbent city Mayor Joey Marquez conceded to rival Roilo Golez in the congressional race in the second district of Parañaque the day after the election. Marquez, who is on his last term as mayor, is the first Metro Manila official to concede.

Moreno (Venessa Marquez) is running for mayor for the first time. Quick counts show her to be trailing behind frontrunner Pablo Olivarez and Jun Bernabe.

Punzalan said Moreno's camp is hoping that when the votes from her bailiwicks like BF Homes and Barangay Tambo have been counted, Moreno's numbers will shoot up.

He also described the actress' mood as calm, and said she has been busy tending to her supporters and volunteers, who are working in two shifts to watch the counting of votes.

Punzalan also assured the public that Moreno's camp would not be creating any trouble like filing protests or holding rallies in case she does not win.

He also called on Moreno's supporters to avoid fighting and heckling with supporters of rival candidates.

Conduct own cleanup drive, LGUs urged

By Nelson Forte Flores

INTERIOR and Local Government Secretary Jose Lina Jr. yesterday asked all local government executives to clean up their respective areas following the messy election campaign period.

"Now that the election is over, let us join hands and start taking down all election campaign materials in our surroundings and keep our towns and cities clean again," Lina said.

Lina stressed that as local executives, it is incumbent upon them to lead their constituents in cleaning and clearing structures, walls and posts of their communities from campaign materials.

He also urged all political candidates, including their followers, to help in the cleanup.

He also directed the Bureau of Fire Protection to lend a hand in removing all posters.

Meanwhile, post-election trash should be removed from the streets immediately or they could cause problems during the rainy days, according to the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority.

MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando said election materials like posters, flyers and leaflets could clog water inlets and cause localized flooding.

"We need to clean up the metropolis immediately before the rainy season comes early next month," Fernando said. *With a report from Margaux Ortiz*

Why Joey Marquez lost

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

THE EXIT polls of the Social Weather Stations (SWS) say that President Macapagal-Arroyo will win over actor Fernando Poe Jr. even as votes are still being counted.

The SWS predicted the victory of Fidel V. Ramos over Miriam Defensor-Santiago in the 1992 presidential election. It also predicted the victory of Joseph Estrada over Jose de Venecia in the 1998 elections.

Going by its track record, the SWS exit polls last Monday is very accurate.

* * *

But FPJ is a sore loser. He can't accept defeat. He thinks he's still playing the hero's role in the movies.

Ronnie Poe appealed to the media to be fair in their reporting of the election results.

Since when have the media been unfair in their coverage of election results?

How could the media report inaccurate election results when they would be found out?

True, some media outlets side with certain candidates during the campaign period, but during the counting of votes these same media outlets report the true figures.

* * *

According to the SWS exit polls, GMA beat FPJ in the National Capital Region (NCR) or Metro Manila, which is normally an opposition bailiwick.

In short, FPJ should have won in Metro Manila, but did not.

Why did FPJ lose in the opposition bailiwick? Because of GMA's machinery.

I've had first-hand knowledge about how GMA's party campaigned hard in Metro Manila. GMA's campaign machinery covered all barangays in the metropolis.

The GMA campaign strategy not only covered campaigning for local officials affiliated with the administration party, it also went down to the barangay level. A parallel group campaigned only for GMA on the barangay level.

GMA's secret weapon is a former lady town mayor who campaigned person-to-person with barangay officials for the President alone. She concentrated on the barangays. This former mayora speaks the language of the barangay officials as she once dealt with them in her town.

* * *

"We had to concentrate in Metro Manila because we didn't want FPJ leading GMA by a mile here. We were expecting that FPJ would win here but we only wanted the FPJ lead to be minimal," said the ex-Pampanga town mayor.

The over-populated Metro Manila has the highest number of voters in the whole country.

She said she herself was surprised when the exit polls indicated that GMA was leading FPJ by a big margin.

"*Masyadong kumpiyansa si FPJ. Akala niya madadala niya sa pagiging artista ang NCR* (FPJ was over-confident. He relied on his popularity in NCR)," said the former mayor.

In the recently held elections, popularity took the backseat in favor of well-oiled machinery.

* * *

Why can't FPJ follow the example of Parañaque Mayor Joey Marquez who conceded early to his rival, former National Security Adviser Roilo Golez?

Marquez and Golez were running for representative of the second congressional district in Parañaque. Marquez has served out his third and last term as mayor.

Joey Marquez showed that even an actor is capable of being a statesman.

* * *

Why did Marquez, who's evidently more popular among the masses because of his long stint in show business, lose to Roilo Golez?

Because he has lost his magic after his quarrel with Kris Aquino, a very popular movie-TV personality and youngest daughter of the well-loved former President Cory Aquino.

During a fit of anger, Kris claimed that she got infected by Marquez who, she said, had an STD.

The joke among the people of Parañaque was, "*may tulo si Joey pero walang tulo ang mga gripo sa Parañaque* (Joey has the clap but the faucets in Parañaque have run dry)."

Joey lost the women's vote because of his supposed infection.

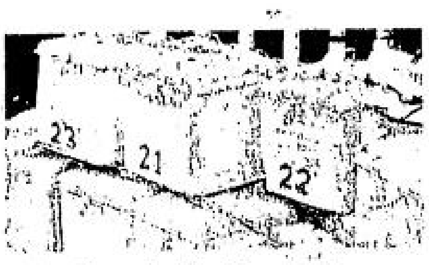
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Metro
THURSDAY, MAY 13, 2004
E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph
Editor **Abelardo S. Ulanday**

FOUR DIGIT
9 3 7 8
(In exact order)

SUERTRES
2 1 5

MEGALOTTO 6/45
7 14 15 24 25 29

- **Alma M not yet conceding mayoral race/ A17**



- **Metro tally based on Namfrel count / A17**

- **Lina tells LGUs: Do your own cleanup / A17**

Caloocan and Cainta tallies raise tempers

Manipulation, intimidation alleged

By Fe Zamora and Edson Tandoc Jr.

ALLEGATIONS of electoral fraud and manipulation are raising tension and tempers in Caloocan City and Cainta, Rizal.

Claiming sabotage, Caloocan City Mayor Reynaldo Malonzo yesterday gathered more than 1,000 of his supporters outside of City Hall to protest the conduct of the elections.

"I thought I was really losing, so I have been keeping quiet," said Malonzo, who is finishing his third and final term while running for Congress.

'Cheating' discovered

However, he said that he had discovered that he was being cheated.

The results of the initial tally of the Commission on Elections as of 3:30 p.m. showed Malonzo trailing fellow congressional aspirant Oscar Malapitan.

A total of 1,558 votes were counted for Malonzo, while Malapitan had 2,552 from 46 of the 1,787 election returns from the city's first district.

Malonzo's wife, Gigi, was also lagging behind leading bet Enrico Echiverri in the mayoralty race. Rep. Edgar Erice was second, while former mayor Macario Asistio Jr. was third.

No credibility

"The election returns they are tabulating have no credibility," Malonzo shouted before his supporters, drowning out even the blare of his campaign jingle that played during the demonstration.

Malonzo showed the INQUIRER copies of election returns where he was allegedly sabotaged.

He pointed out that in election returns

CALOOCAN/ A17

Armscor exec gunned down

By Luige del Puerto and Barbara Magallona

A WEAPONS firm executive was killed in an ambush in Parang, Marikina, yesterday, two days after the national election.

Police identified the victim as Danilo R. dela Paz, executive general manager and vice president of Arms Corporation of the Philippines or Armscor.

Armscor is the biggest weapons and manufacturing firm in the Philippines. It supplies guns and ammunition to a few countries in the Middle East and Latin America.

Police said Dela Paz was on his way to work on board a gray Isuzu Trooper (with plates XMP 668) when at least five young-looking men ambushed him on Champaca Street corner Fortune Avenue around 9 a.m.

He died on the spot, the police said.

The police recovered 22 slugs from a 45mm caliber pistol in the crime scene.

"This was a daring ambush," Sr. Supt. Felipe Rojas Jr. told the INQUIRER.

Witnesses told police that the suspects dragged Dela Paz's body out, and then tried to start his vehicle. When it would not budge, they commandeered an L300 van near the Trooper. The three passengers of the van, however, were not harmed.

The police later recovered the van on Champaca Street. The gunmen apparently fled on board tricycles, the police said.

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Sa mata ng Namfrel, kapanipaniwala nga ba?
Ang relasyon ng Commission on Elections at ng National Movement for Free Elections ay masasabing sala sa init, sala sa lamig. Sa tingin ng Namfrel, kulang sa paghahanda ang Comelec. Nagkulang din ba ang kredibilidad ng halalan noong Lunes? Ang sagot, mamayang alas-10 ng gabi, sa isa na namang election special ng InqTV, sa ABC.
ABC

SPORTS
E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph
Editor **Teddyvic S. Melendres**
Assistant Editor **Edwin M. Villanueva**

SPORTS TV
Compiled by L. Manguiat

BASKETBALL: NBA Greatest Game - Rockets vs. Lakers, Game 5, Western Conf Finals; 7 a.m.; Solar Sports - With the score tied, Houston center Ralph Sampson hits an awkward, spinning shot at the buzzer to defeat LA and complete a surprising five-game series defeat of the defending champions
2004 NBA Playoffs - Timberwolves vs Kings, Game 4, Western Semifinals; 10:30 a.m. (r-10 p.m.); Solar Sports; Pacers vs Heat, Game 5, Eastern Semifinals; 8 p.m.; IBC 13 - Sacramento tries to hand Minnesota a royal flush while Miami attempts to torch Indiana.
BADMINTON Thomas and Uber Cup; 7:30 p.m. and 9 p.m.; ESPN - Catch the semifinals of the world's premier badminton tournament.

Lakers, Nets pull off equalizers A21

Marquez refuses Pacquiao rematch

By **Salven L. Lagumbay**, *contributor*

NO REMATCH on the horizon with Manny Pacquiao.

Having escaped with a split draw to keep his World Boxing Association and International Boxing Federation featherweight title, Juan Manuel Marquez said another meeting with the Filipino hero is not part of his immediate plans.

The Mexican champion, in an interview with ESPN Deportes, said he would rest for at least a month before returning to the Romanza Gym for a possible defense of his IBF crown against mandatory challenger Orlando Salido.

"I raised myself from three knockdowns and went on to dominate the fight. I feel I won the fight, that's why I am not giving any rematch," Marquez told members of the Mexican media.

Pacquiao, who is scheduled to arrive in Manila today, knocked down Marquez three times in the first round of their title fight in Las Vegas Saturday, but the Mexican recovered to give the Filipino one of his toughest fights ever.

"The people enjoyed a great fight," Marquez said.

MARQUEZ wants Pacquiao to win a world featherweight title first. REUTERS

When told that Pacquiao's trainer, Freddie Roach, has advised his ward to go after WBC featherweight champ Chi In Jin of South Korea next, Marquez declared: "Pacquiao should win a prestigious world title first. When he does that I will face him in a unification fight. That way, he also risks an important title, just as I do."

Reports said Roach had asked Pacquiao to get a much-deserved rest before going after Chi.

A bout with Chi is not difficult to arrange, Filipino fight pundits say.

Chi's promoter, Lee Ku Sung, enjoys a good working relationship with WBC founding secretary general Rudy Salud, who was responsible for Pacquiao's inclusion on the WBC roster.

Meanwhile, International Boxing Federation (IBF) president Marian Muhammad said the first round of the Pacquiao-Marquez fight could have been scored more accurately.

Muhammad, who heads the New Jersey-based boxing body, clarified in an interview with the INQUIRER yesterday that "a knockdown is worth one point and every time the boxer gets knocked down, a point is taken away."

The IBF president also added that if a boxer is ahead when he knocks his opponent down, the round is 10-8.

Thus, when Pacquiao downed Marquez three times in the first round, the first knockdown was 10-8 for the Filipino, the second 10-7 and the third 10-6.

Unfortunately, one of the fight judges, Burt Clements, scored the first round a mere 10-7 which resulted in a draw in his final tally of 113-113. He later admitted he erred in scoring the round.

TAÑAMOR: Through

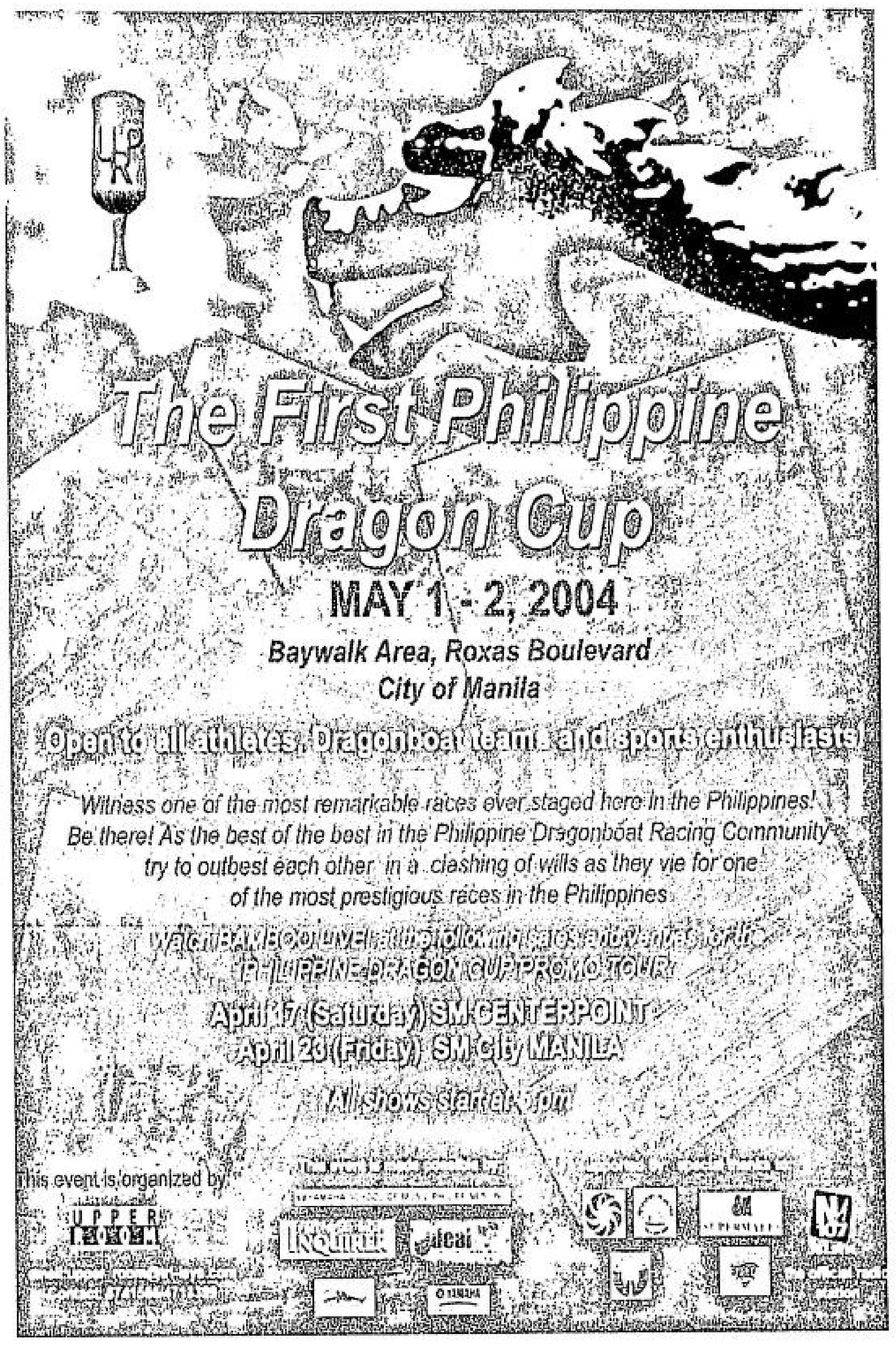
Tañamor makes it to Athens

KARACHI, Pakistan—He's been to Athens, Greece before to vie in some minor boxing tournaments. This time, Harry Tañamor is going there for the big one.

The Filipino pug gave everything he had in his 48-kg (light fly) semifinal bout against Uzbekistan's Namajonov Otabek and was rewarded with a 36-14 win that assured him a ticket to the Athens Olympics this August.

Tañamor, the lone survivor of the four-man RP-Alaxan FR team, now tries to win the gold medal in his division of the 3rd Asian Olympic boxing qualifying tournament here against Hong Moo Won of Korea.

"*Nakuha rin sa wakas* (At last, I made it,)" said the 25-year-old Zamboangueño.



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Sunkist, Hapee seek vital wins

GAMES TODAY *(UST Gym)*
2 p.m.—Viva Mineral vs Hapee
4 p.m.—Blu Star vs Sunkist

HAPEE Toothpaste and Sunkist-UST try to get the inside track for the top two seats in the PBL Unity Cup quarterfinals when they tackle separate foes today at the UST gym.

Tied for third spot with 4-4 records, the Teeth Sparklers and the Tigers tackle Viva and Blu Star, respectively.

The Water Force, who have already booked a semifinal seat with idle Welcoat, tangle with the Teeth Sparklers at 2 p.m. *Trina Ibarle*

Beermen keep rolling along

GAMES SATURDAY *(Philsports Arena)*
4:10 p.m.—Coca-Cola vs FedEx
6:30 p.m.—Alaska vs Red Bull

SAN Miguel Beer simply went for the kill when Alaska gave it all up.

The Beermen used a searing third quarter binge against the lethargic Aces to hammer out a 105-85 victory last night in the Gran Matador PBA Fiesta Conference at the Araneta Coliseum.

Olsen Racela masterfully orchestrated the Beermen's offensive while knocking in nine of his 19 points in the breakaway third period as San Miguel stayed firmly on top with its 13th win in 15 games.

Racela's heroics and the combined efforts of Dondon Hontiveros and Art Long in that decisive stretch pushed the Aces to their second straight defeat and a 9-6 card overall.

"Alaska doesn't usually give up that easily," said Alaska coach Tim Cone.

Galen Young and Ali Peek suddenly lost steam in the third, their lackadaisical form affecting the rest of the Aces.

The scores:

First Game

SAN MIGUEL 105—Hontiveros 22, Long 20, Racela 19, Seigle 16, Ildefonso 10, Singson 7, Belasco 6, Pena 5.

ALASKA 85—Young 26, Peek 20, Thoss 11, Allado 10, Cortez 7, Duat 5, Cablay 4, Camaso 2, Padilla 0.

Quarters: 23-20; 47-39; 77-60; 105-85

DANNY Seigle of SMB tries to elude Don Camaso of Alaska last night. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

400 golds up in SEAG

NO more than 400 gold medals in 41 sports.

The Philippine Southeast Asian Games Organizing Committee is working on this figure which will be presented to the SEAG Federation for final approval this October.

"The number of medals hovers around 400," said technical committee member Red Dumuk yesterday. "It is the third highest number of medals, but we have the highest in the number of sports participating."

The SEAG council wants more sports with lesser events, he said.

The record for the most number of medals staked was 448 in 34 sports during the 1977 Games in Jakarta. Last year in Vietnam, 446 medals were up for grabs in 32 sports. *Trina Ibarle*

Superals set for another sweep

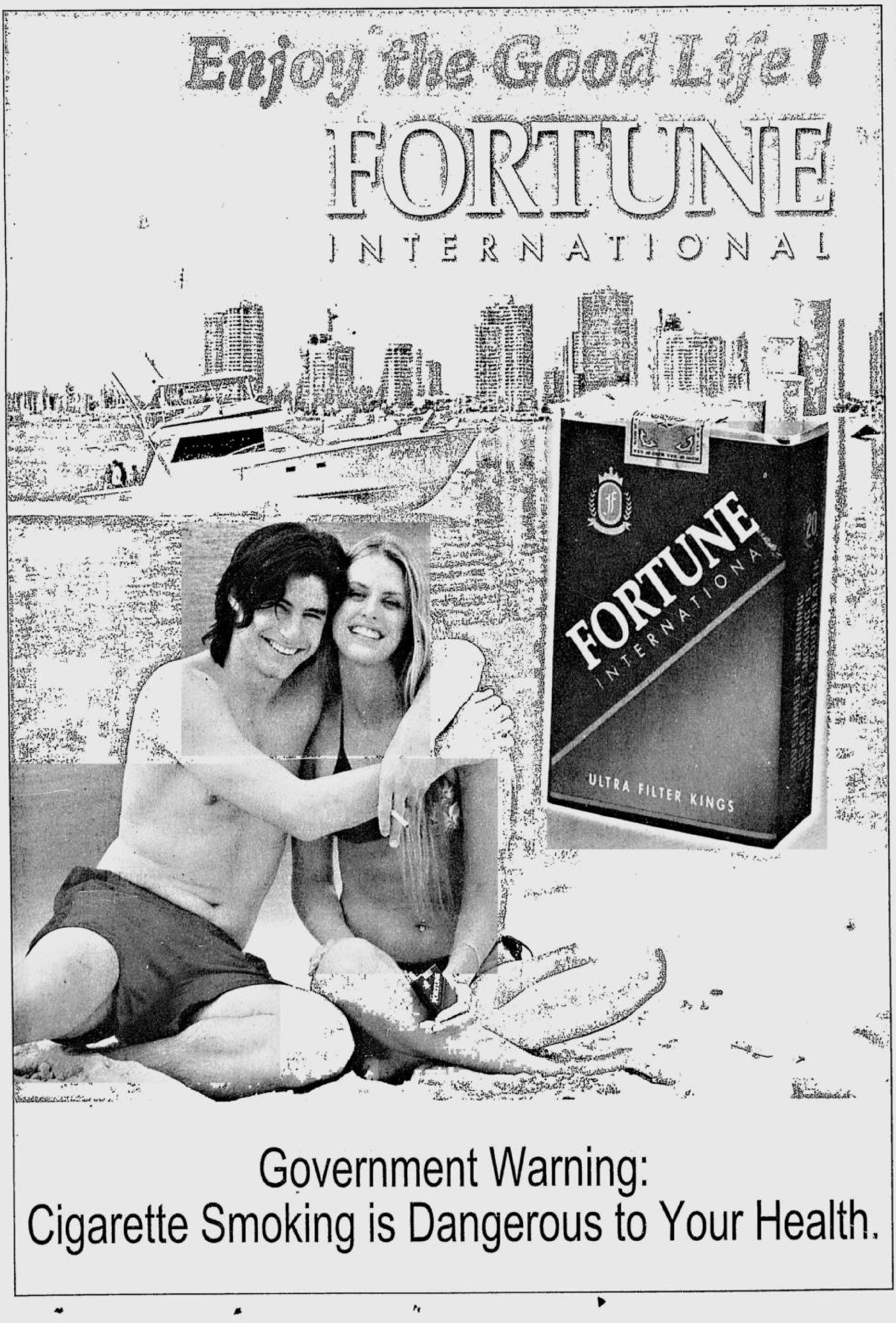
TERENCE Macatangay opened his bid for a third consecutive title in boys' Class A with an eight-over 80 on Tuesday to share the first-round lead with IG Gutierrez, even as the Superal siblings appear headed for another triple-kill at the Orchard Golf and Country Club.

Macatangay, winner at Mt. Malarayat and Tat Filipinas legs the past two weeks, and Gutierrez paced the long-hitting Gino Bunyi by one stroke in the sixth leg of the Samsung Philippine Jungolf Tour.

The Superals, going for a third version of their family sweep in as many starts, stormed to big leads in their respective divisions.

Wolen Superal scored a 79 for a seven-shot lead over Carlos Tinio in boys' Class C, his elder sister Crystal Faith shot an 80 to go six up on Debbie de Villa in girls' Class B, while their younger sister Princess scored an 89 to move up by 10 over Felicia Medalla.

In the other divisions, Erika Salinas was on top in girls' Class A, Migo Ochoa paced boys' Class B, Paulina Sotto stormed ahead by 10 in girls' Class C, Don Martin Fernandez and Katya dela Cruz showed the way in Class D and AR Ramos led the boys' Class E category.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Probe Clements

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

I AM a boxing judge. I have judged fights many times, including two stints in Korea. In the seventies, I was judging fights in La Union, Cebu, Quezon, Nueva Ecija and Davao very often that I'd soon start declining offers for more judging jobs because they started interfering with my main job: sportswriting. Had I not done that, I would have become now maybe a full-time international boxing judge.

Judging fights is so interesting it can consume you from head to foot before you know it.

I still do some judging every now and then. But mostly now, I do my judging in front of a TV set while watching a fight with significance—such as the recent Pacquiao-Marquez bout in Las Vegas. That was one fight that got—in the words of one of the judges himself-"screwed up."

"I just screwed up," said Burt Clements, one of the three judges in the Pacquiao-Marquez fight, who said he should have written 10-6 instead of 10-7 in favor of Pacquiao in the first round. "I feel badly because I dropped the ball, plainly and simply. You can make a lot of arguments that it was a close fight. But that's immaterial. The fact is I dropped the ball."

The first round saw Pacquiao knock Marquez down three times with thundering lefts to the face. The other two judges had scored it 10-6 for Pacquiao in this round.

One judge had scored the fight 115-110 for Pacquiao and the other 115-110 for Marquez. With Clements' 113-113 draw, Marquez escaped with the split draw.

Had Clements scored it 10-6 instead of 10-7 for Pacquiao in the first round, Pacquiao would have been the winner by majority decision as Clements' scorecard would have read 114-112 in favor of Pacquiao and not a 113-113 draw. Clements' 113-tie allowed Marquez to retain his IBF and WBA featherweight crowns.

Nobody won actually, except that, in the eyes of an unbelieving world, Pacquiao had been robbed of a legitimate victory. Save for the Marquez camp and Marquez' ardent followers, which was understandable, almost everybody said Pacquiao had won the fight. Many foreign sportswriters who covered the fight in Las Vegas believed Pacquiao won it. Even the legendary Muhammad Ali saw Pacquiao the winner, calling Pacquiao the "Small Ali."

Some argue that there was nothing wrong with Pacquiao earning a draw. He did not lose and so, we should be proud of him and continue heaping praise on him.

But that's precisely the point.

Pacquiao losing a won-fight because a judge "screwed" things up is the height of hypocrisy, if not ineptness and boxing madness.

It's like saying a basketball referee erred in not counting a three-point shot that should have made a team the winner by a single point because, as the referee would explain it, "I screwed up." Whatever manner he screwed it up, it is the obligation of the technical committee to rectify that.

Clements, in a newspaper interview in Las Vegas, had admitted, "I just screwed up."

That should be it?

I say the IBF and WBA officials should invite Clements to an official inquiry, ask him point-blank if he did say he "screwed up." If his answer is "yes," I guess it would be safe to conclude he'd be willing to change his score from 10-7 to 10-6 and thus making Pacquiao the winner.

Now in the event he admits to "screwing it up" but still refuses to change the score, that's the time both the IBF and WBA should step in and make their own ruling on the matter. For a semblance of transparency, the IBF and WBA should invite the Nevada Boxing Commission, which sanctioned the fight, as the third force in the probe of Clements.

That's not hard to do.

I'd been batting for ages that there ought to be a rule banning draws for every round. Not to brag but my own rule of thumb has always been that I make one fighter the winner of every round, the winner of every fight. Meaning, I do not score draws.

I did not write FPJ-GMA in my ballot on May 10—if you know what I mean.

In every decision that I have to make-had to make—I decide. Not stay neutral. Neutrals are the most dangerous in this world. As Jesus Christ said, "If you are not with me, you are against me."

Neutrals are worse than scoundrels. They are first-class opportunists. Fence-sitters. They watch two combatants kill each other. After that, they side with the winner—and, more often than not, next enjoy a life of milk and honey.

Avoid such people as they are worse than Pontius Pilate.

It has happened a lot of times that decisions had been either reversed or ordered rescinded and in their place an order for a mandatory rematch. Our own Gerry Peñalosa, through the impeccable arguing savvy of his manager, Rudy Salud, had earned a rematch with Tokuyama. This after Salud had convinced WBC president Jose Sulaiman that the first Peñalosa-Tokuyama world title fight was too close to call. And although Penalosa also lost the second fight with Tokuyama—again on points—at least Salud's point in asking for a rematch had been effectively driven through: A controversial bout always deserves a serious review.

In the fight at hand, Pacquiao got a raw deal. It, thus, needs to be rectified in the soonest possible time. Otherwise, the draw verdict will remain just that: a defeat for Pacquiao said in another way.

If it's any consolation, this black eye, plainly and simply, will haunt Clements the rest of his life.

SPORTSWATCH

Barte leads q'finalists

TOP seed Ralph Kevin Barte defeated Arthur Tafalla, 6-2, 6-4, yesterday to reach the 18-under quarterfinals of the Philta Classic 3 Age-Group Championships at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center. Other winners were No. 2 Janjie Soquino over Christian Canlas, 6-1, 6-1, No. 3 Miguel Antonio Pantua over Angelo Patrimonio, 6-3, 6-1, No. 5 Russell Arcilla Jr. over Mark Katindig, 7-5, 6-2, Nic Fernandez over Johnwill Baldonado, 6-4, 6-2, and Juv Alban over Julian Lagman, 6-1, 6-3. In the boys' 14-under class, unseeded Akio Hari Ong Sy ousted sixth seed Juan Carlo Pantua, 6-1, 2-6, 6-2, to join No. 1 Patrick Arevalo, No. 3 Mark Balce, No. 4 Jose Lorenzo Opulencia, No. 5 Francis Casey Alcantara and No. 9 Julius Lagman in the quarterfinals. Sy, seeded No. 1 in the 12-under, outclassed Martin Libao, 6-2, 6-1, to advance against Juan Gabriel Pena, a 7-6 (3), 6-2 winner over Michael Alza.

Bigger Belle Cup tourney

BIG prizes await the winners and participants in the fifth edition of the Belle Cup two-man team golf tournament slated May 21 and 22 at the Tagaytay Highlands and Midlands golf courses. With the addition of Perfect Smile, International Exchange Bank, Time Depot, Wilson Sports, Fly Ace, Lacoste and Oakley as sponsors for this year's biggest club tournament, Belle Corp., the developer of the two world-class courses, has made sure that preparations will leave no stone unturned. "This being the club's anniversary, preparations for the Belle Cup in terms of prizes, giveaways, awards dinner and program have been scaled notches higher as this is our way of thanking our members for their continuous support over the last 10 years," said Willy N. Ocler, vice chair of Belle Corp. A BMW car from PGA cars and roundtrip tickets for two to the US courtesy of Northwest Airlines are at stake in the event. Only the first 150 teams can play in this 3-in-1 tourney with PGA Cars, Northwest, Powell Chemicals, Kart Plaza and Werdenberg International and SM Prime as major sponsors. Deadline for the submission of entries is 5 p.m. Saturday.

PBA anniversary tourney

PASIG Bowling Association (PBA) marks its 25th anniversary by holding an invitational tournament at the Green Valley Lanes on Saturday. FIQ (international bowling federation) president Steve Hontiveros is a charter member of PBA. A cash prize of P60,000 and a trophy await the champion of the tourney which is open to all bowlers, except members of the national and youth teams and training pool. Other prizes are P30,000, P20,000, P10,000, P8,000, P6,000, P4,000 and P3,000 from second to seventh places, respectively. Prizes are distributed down to the 15th place. Multiple attempts will be allowed. For inquiries, call Edith Sunga at 0920-9107011.

Ex-Olympian Cailao, 85

FORMER Olympian and swimming champion Agustin "Cai" Cailao passed away Tuesday due to a lingering illness. He was 85. Cailao, who also served as the University of the Philippines' physical education director, wore the national colors in several Asian Games and Olympic Games as an athlete and later on as coach. Cailao taught for 36 years at UP. He is survived by his wife Andrea and children Eddy, Letty, Tony, Rox, Bambi and Luchie.

Lakers, Nets tie rivals

BRYANT

LOS ANGELES—Kobe Bryant's seemingly endless energy has the Los Angeles Lakers looking like their old selves.

Bryant scored 42 points in another remarkable performance as the Lakers evened their Western Conference semifinal series at two games each with a 98-90 victory over the San Antonio Spurs.

"It was a big game and I wanted to leave it all out on the floor," Bryant said. "We are playing like each possession is our last. That is the type of effort we need in the playoffs."

Bryant spent a second straight day in a Colorado courtroom, entering a not guilty plea on his rape charge.

He flew back to Los Angeles, went home to get some rest and arrived at Staples Center just before tip-off.

Showing no signs of fatigue, the superstar guard scored 18 points in the first half.

In East Rutherford, New Jersey, Jason Kidd scored 22 points as part of his seventh career playoff triple-double as the Nets cruised to a 94-79 victory over the Detroit Pistons, evening the Eastern Conference series at two games apiece.

Detroit opened the series with a pair of home wins by a combined 37 points and New Jersey has responded with two of its own by a total of 33 points. Game five is in Michigan. *AFP*

Manuel-Gruba tops Sherwood Hills golf

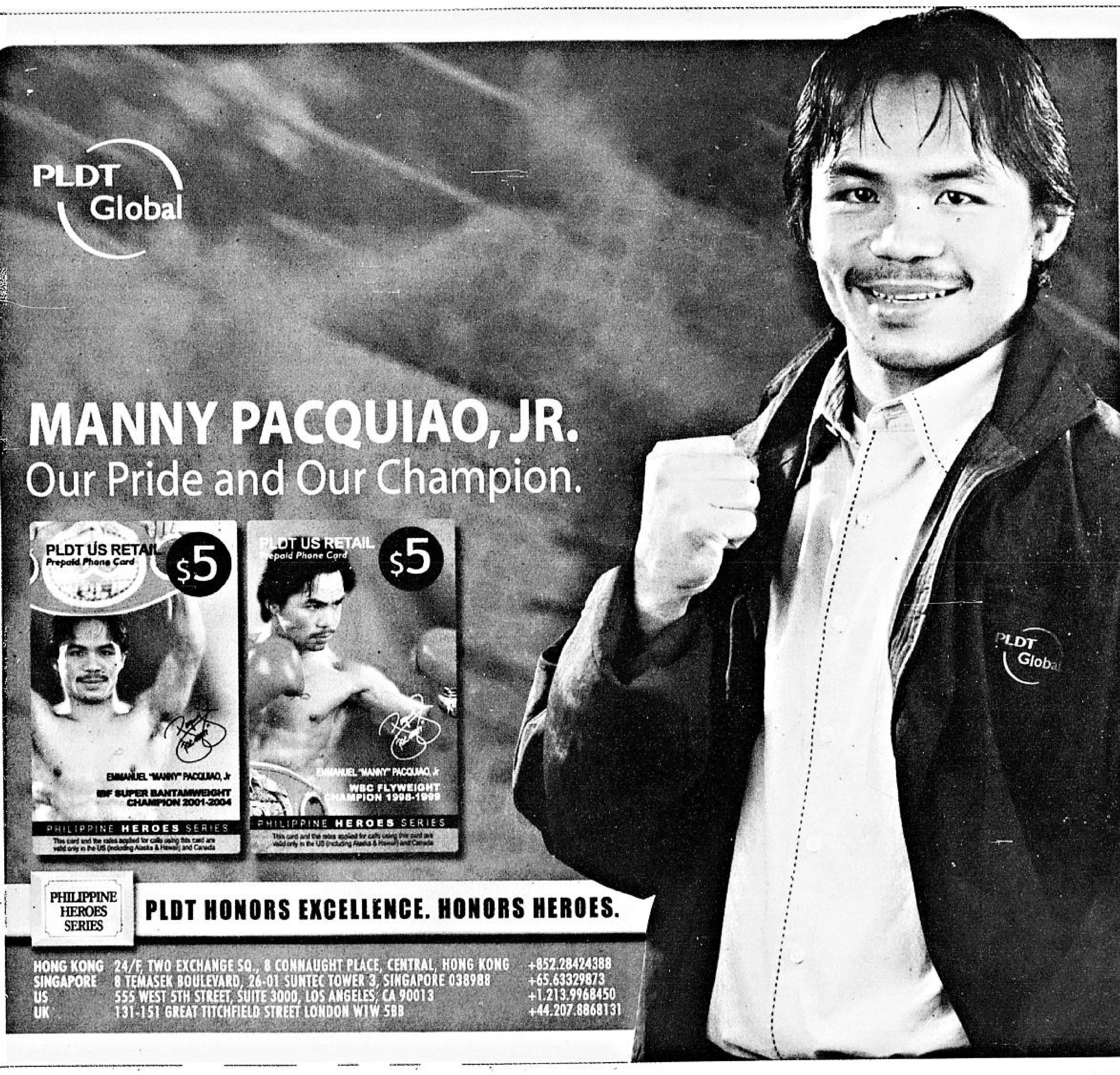
PLAYING a course with an unusual par of 96, Pong Manuel and Mark Gruba proved to be the steadiest combination when they emerged the overall champion of the Sherwood Hills Invitational member-guest tournament recently at the Sherwoods Hills Golf and Country Club course in Trece Martires, Cavite.

The Manuel-Gruba tandem scored 84 to show up the field of 144 teams which, under the unique tournament format, played alternate shots for six holes, scramble for the next six holes and aggregate for the last six.

Luis Oh joined hands with Peping Nepomuceno for a 90 to capture the Group I crown, Dr. Ed Abesamis worked in tandem with Ed Puno also for a 90 to clinch the Group II plum while Joseph Sison and Rene Floro, scoring an 87, were crowned the Group III champion.

Globe Platinum provided major support to the 18-hole tourney that was one of the biggest in the Sherwood Hills calendar of tournaments.

Oh and Nepomuceno were denied the top award by Manuel and Gruba but finished ahead of the teams of Danny Samaniego-Desi Hebron and Freddie Mendoza-Nilo Fuentebella for Group I honors.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www.shangri-la.com

Dusit Hotel Nikko

Dusit Hotel Nikko
Ayala Center, 1223 Makati City Phil.
Tel. 867-3333 Email: dusitmnl@dusit.com
http://manila.dusit.com

Evercrest Golf Club Resort, Inc.
Km. 72 Batulao, Nasugbu, Batangas
Tel. (02) 712-9293 to 98
Fax (02) 712-9299
Manila Sales Office 733-3822/733-9955

Shangri-La's
Mactan Island Resort
CEBU, PHILIPPINES

Mactan Island Resort
Punta Engano Road, Lapu Lapu Cebu
Tel. (632) 231-0288/Fax (632) 231-1688
www.shangri-la.com

INTERCONTINENTAL.
MANILA

Intercontinental Manila
1 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Tel 815-9711
www.intercontinental.com

ASTORIA PLAZA
Serviced Residential Suites

ASTORIA PLAZA
15 J. Escriva Drive, Ortigas Business District,
Pasig City 1600
Tel 687-1111 Fax 910-0370
Email: sales@astoriaplaza.com

City Garden Hotel-Makati
Makati Ave., cor. Kalayaan St., Makati City
Tel. (02) 899-1111Fax. (02) 899-1415
Email: makati:citygardenhotels.com

Executive Plaza Hotel
1630 A Mabini St., Malate, Manila
Tel 523-1000 /fax 525-8979
Email: sales@executiveplazahotel.com
www.executiveplazahotel.com

City Garden
Suites

City Garden Suites
1158A Mabini St., Ermita, Manila
Tel. 536-1451 Fax. 524-4844
Email:cityreservations@citygardenhotels.com

HOTEL VENIZ
BAGUIO

Hotel Veniz
No. 1 Abanao St. Baguio City
Tel. (074) 446-0700 to 03
Fax (074) 446-0704
Email: hotelveniz@skyinet.net
www.hotelveniz.com

HOTEL SUPREME

Hotel Supreme
113 Magsaysay Ave., Baguio City
Tel. (074) 443-2011 to 18/ Fax. (074) 442-2855

Skyrise Hotel
18 Dominican Road, Baguio City
Tel (074) 445-6834 to 36 /fax (074) 443-3897

THE MARCO POLO

The Marco Polo
CM Recto St. Davao City 8000
Tel. (082) 221-0888/fax (082) 225-0111
www.marcopolohotels.com

Grand Regal Hotel Davao
J. P. Laurel St., Lanang, Davao City
Tel (382) 235-0888 / (382) 234-3858

Taal Vista Hotel
Aguinaldo Highway, Tagaytay City
Tel. (046) 413-1000/Fax. (046) 413-1225

THE PENINSULA
MANILA

The Peninsula Manila Hotel
Cor. Ayala Ave. & Makati Ave., Makati City
Tel. 810-3456/ Fax 815-4825

Mandarin Oriental Manila
Paseo de Roxas cor. Makati Ave. Makati City
Tel. 750-8888
www.mandarinoriental.com

The Bellevue Manila
North Bridgeway, Northgate
Alabang, Muntinlupa
Tel. (632) 771-8181/ fax (632) 771-8282
www.thebellevue.com.pi.

GARDEN PLAZA

Garden Plaza Hotel & Suites
1030 Belen St., Paco, Manila
Tel. (632) 522-4835/ fax (632) 522-4840

WATERFRONT CEBU CITY HOTEL & CASINO

Waterfront Hotel Lahug
1 Salinas Drive, Lahug Cebu City
Tel. (6332) 232-6888/Fax (6332)232-6880
www.waterfronthotels.net

WATERFRONT

Waterfront Hotel Mactan
1 Airport Road, Lapu Lapu City, 6015
Tel. (6332) 340-4888/fax (6332) 340-5693
www.waterfronthotels.net

THE ROYAL MANDAYA HOTEL

Royal Mandaya Hotel
J. Palma Gil St. Davao City
Tel. (082) 225-8888/fax (082) 225-1888

Camp John Hay Manor
Loakan Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074) 446-0231 to 50

City Travel Hotel

City Travel Hotel
15 Kisad Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074) 445-0456 / Fax (074) 445-0457

Cooyeesan Hotel Plaza
Naguilian cor. Asin Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074) 447-8888 to 93/ (074) 447-8895 to 98
Fax. (074) 447-0494

The Golden Pine

Golden Pine Hotel and Restaurant
Intersection of Carino St. and Legarda
Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074)444-9970 to 71/740-8975/
Fax. (074) 446-0704
Email: goldenpineholte@skyinet.net

SOMERSET
SALCEDO MAKATI

Somerset Salcedo, Makati
H.V. dela Costa St., cor. L.P. Levista St., Salcedo Village, 1227 Makati City
Tel. 888-6668 Fax: 888-6655

SOMERSET
MILLENNIUM MAKATI

Somerset Millennium, Makati
No. 104 Aguirre St., Legaspi Village, 1229
Makati City
Tel. 888-0505 Fax: 812-7721

SOMERSET
OLYMPIA•MAKATI

Somerset Olympia, Makati
No. 7912, Makati Ave., 1220 Makati City
Tel. 812-1010 Fax: 818-8254

2nd ladies golf challenge set

PREPARATIONS for the 2004 stretch of the 2nd Asian Ladies Team Championship, which is scheduled from May 24 to 26, are all set. Once more, Camp John Hay Golf Club will host the annual all-women invitational on its world-renowned championship golf course, which measures 5001-yards with an 18-hole par of 69.

The field will be as competitive as last year's meet with 30 teams of six players each with two alternates expected to compete in a challenging golf course redesigned by Golden Bear International through legendary golfer Jack Nicklaus.

"More than 100 amateur women golfers representing various golf clubs and associations from all over the Philippines will be coming off recently concluded missions, so it will be exciting to see how they do", Shean Bedi, overall coordinator of the tournament said.

This year's tournament will be presented by Bayo together with major sponsors Globe Platinum and CJH Development Corp.

A tribute to the region's best and most remarkable women golfing talents, the tournament will be loaded with relaxing indoor and outdoor entertainment that only world-class eco-tourism destinations like Camp John Hay can provide.

The tournament shall be conducted in accordance with the rules of golf as approved by the Royal & Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, the USGA, and the local rules of Camp John Hay Golf Club.

For additional information on the tournament, call Shean Bedi at (0918) 911-6038 or the Tournament Office at (074) 444-2133. Entry forms may likewise be faxed to (074) 444-2132/(074)446-5175.

The Bellevue Hotel's Chinese feast

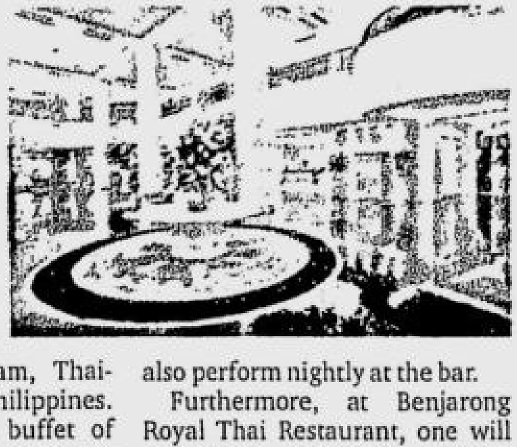
THE BELLEVUE Hotel, the ultimate retreat of food lovers and gourmands in the south of Metro Manila, throws a feast for families and executives with its Chinese set menu promo. A generous spread of China's best-loved dishes is cooked with fresh ingredients and choice spices by The Bellevue's experienced executive chef Goh Sew Kong.

Choose from a variety of authentic Chinese favorites, including Stir Fried Green Vegetables with Garlic Crispy Prawn, Seafood Bean Curd, Prawns in Black Pepper Sauce, Pan Fried Beef Fillet Chinese Style, Yang Zhou Fried Rice and many more. Plus, groups of six availing themselves of the promo receive a complimentary bottle of wine dressed up in a colorful cheongsam. The promo is available from May 1 to 31 only.

Aside from endless dining options and special promos, traveling businessmen and distinctive diners prefer The Bellevue's Café D' Asie because of its comely interiors and relaxing ambiance. With its flavorful and inventive cuisine, more and more people are flocking to The Bellevue for their power lunches and social meetings. For inquiries, call 771-8181.

With its flavorful and inventive cuisine, more and more people are flocking to The Bellevue for their power lunches and social meetings

Dusit Hotel Nikko, the Asian way of life



A WELL-KNOWN favorite among international business and leisure travelers, Dusit Hotel Nikko offers the widest choice from the best Asian and continental cuisine. The hotel takes pride in its four fine dining restaurants offering culinary masterpieces from Vietnam, Thailand, Japan, and the Philippines. These, along with a buffet of popular dishes from the west served in the Café.

There is only one fine dining restaurant that serves authentic Vietnamese dishes. This is Thien Duong, which literally translates to "paradise" in Vietnamese. At the ground floor of Dusit Hotel Nikko, it offers intriguing combinations of tastes and textures that delight both the eyes and the palate. The repertoire of healthful Vietnamese dishes amidst an elegant and classic setting provides the perfect dining experience for connoisseurs.

The hotel also boasts of its newest outlet Fiesta San Miguel, which has its own microbrewery. It is the first and only bar and restaurant in a hotel setting that offers freshly brewed San Miguel beer, along with an array of favorite Filipino dishes. The country's top bands and entertainers also perform nightly at the bar.

Furthermore, at Benjarong Royal Thai Restaurant, one will experience Thailand's culinary finest. The Thai cuisine appeals to a wide variety of tastes, and is not always chili-hot. Thai cooking centers on five flavors—bitter, salty, sweet, sour and hot. There is also Manila's favorite Japanese restaurant, Benkay, which serves a wide selection of authentic Japanese cuisine made only of the best and freshest ingredients from Japan and masterfully prepared by Chef Yoshimi Igarashi.

Of course, buffet buffs must not miss the hotel's The Café, where a spread of international cuisine is served. It also offers ala carte dishes where one can savor the popular Dusit Burger. The Café serves breakfast, lunch and dinner buffet. Indeed, Dusit Hotel Nikko, a member of the Dusit Hotel and resorts Group, is where your utmost comfort is assured. For queries and reservations, call 867-3333.

Mindanao flavors and colors on show at Captain's Bar

THE CAPTAIN'S Bar of Mandarin Oriental, Manila dons and displays the rich colors and heritage of the Philippines' second largest island in the 10-day festival "Mindanao—A Tapestry of Flavors and Colors", beginning May 17.

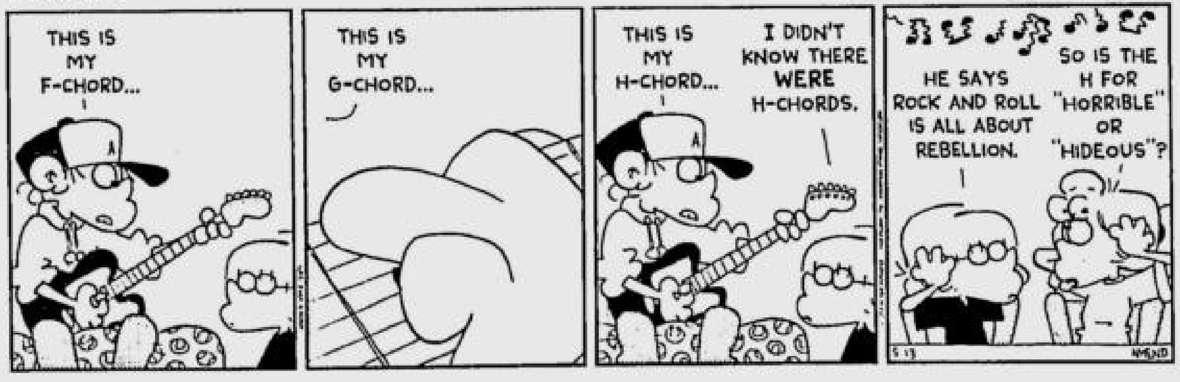
Held in conjunction with the Filipino Heritage Month organized by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts and the Department of Tourism, the Mindanao festival celebrates the region's magnificent culinary and cultural wealth. It is a collaboration of the hotel with Marco Polo Davao, Tribes of the East, Sarangani Bay, Mindanao Trade Expo, Puentespina Orchids & Tropical Plants, Nenita Quality Food, and Marina Tuna. The festival unfolds in grand style and pageantry on opening day as the Ramon Obusan Folkloric Group presents a musical showcase depicting a gathering of the region's various ethnic tribes. Prominent personalities from Davao, Zamboanga, Cagayan and key cities of Mindanao are expected to grace the opening ceremonies.

Chefs from Marco Polo will be at the helm of the kitchen to lay out the lunch buffets of Mindanao specialties on Monday to Friday. Harvests from its sea and vast mountain wilderness evolve into sumptuous culinary offerings such as Tinunuang Nangka ng Bulad (young jackfruit and dried fish with coconut cream), Pako salad (fern salad with shredded green mango), Insalata an suha (pomelo salad), Inun-onang Ikog sa Pompano (pickled pompano), Pinamalang Adobado, Kinilaw na Tanguingue, Lapu-lapu at Bariles, Humba Dawabeño (braised pork belly), and Kinolut na Pagi (skatewing cooked with coconut cream and chilli), to name some. A tuna carving station, and show cooking of Kinilaw na Bariles at Sinugbang Liempo bring on added local flair, as will a wide variety of condiments to complement the viands.

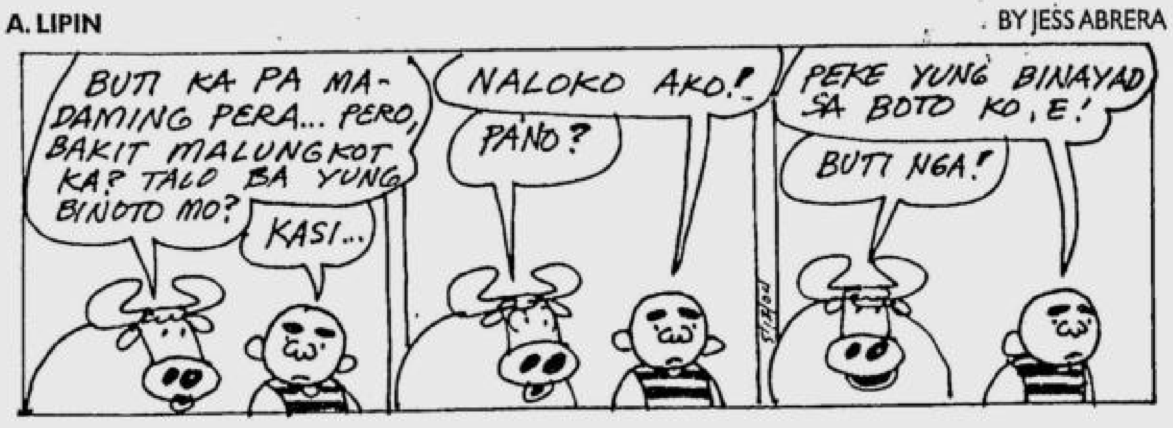
The artistry of the ethnic tribes and their colorful weaves will demand equal attention via display of the contemporary, one-of-a-kind and elegant fashion and home accessories and ornaments, which were made by Tribes of the East and other members of the Mindanao Trade Expo (whose products have been hailed in various European and foreign trade fairs). Puentespina flies in samples of the exotic flora of the second largest island of the Philippines to fill the Captain's Bar with splashes of color to delight not only plant enthusiasts but lovers of beauty and nature.

The buffet lunch, offered only on weekdays, is offered at P780++ for adults, and P420++ for children ages 5 to 12 years. For more information and reservations, call Mandarin Oriental at 750-8888.

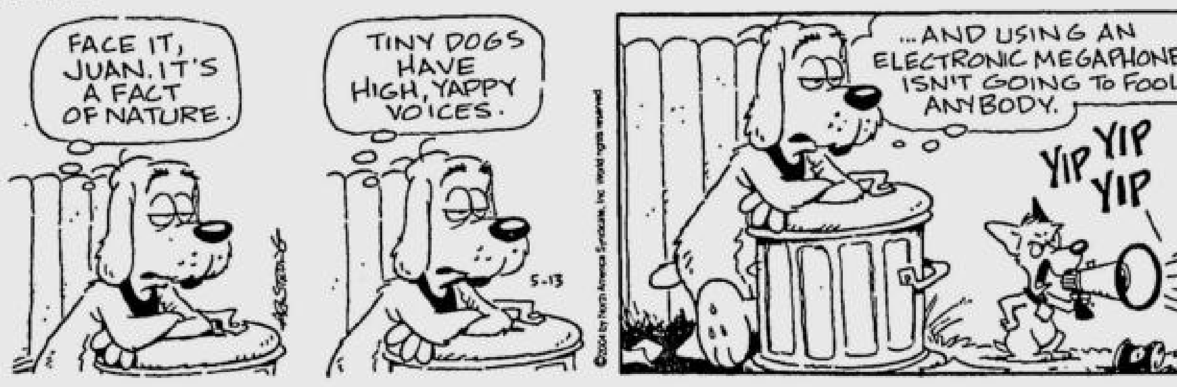
FOXTROT
BY BILL AMEND


THIS IS MY F-CHORD...
THIS IS MY G-CHORD...
THIS IS MY H-CHORD...
I DIDN'T KNOW THERE WERE H-CHORDS.
HE SAYS ROCK AND ROLL IS ALL ABOUT REBELLION.
SO IS THE H FOR "HORRIBLE" OR "HIDEOUS"?
5-13
AMEND

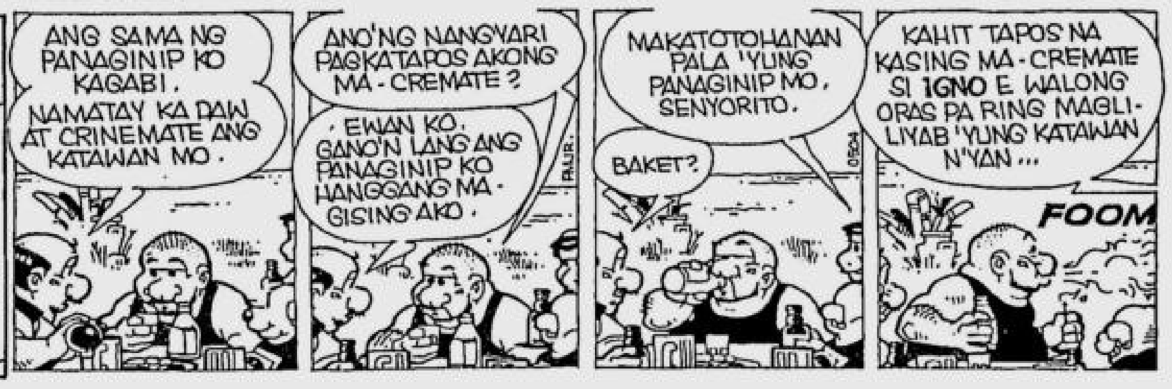
A. LIPIN
BY JESS ABRERA


BUTI KA PA MADAMING PERA... PERO, BAKIT MALUNGKOT KA? TALO BA YUNG BINOTO MO?
KASI...
NALOKO AKO!
PANO?
PEKE YUNG BINAYAD SA BOTO KO, E!
BUTI NGA!

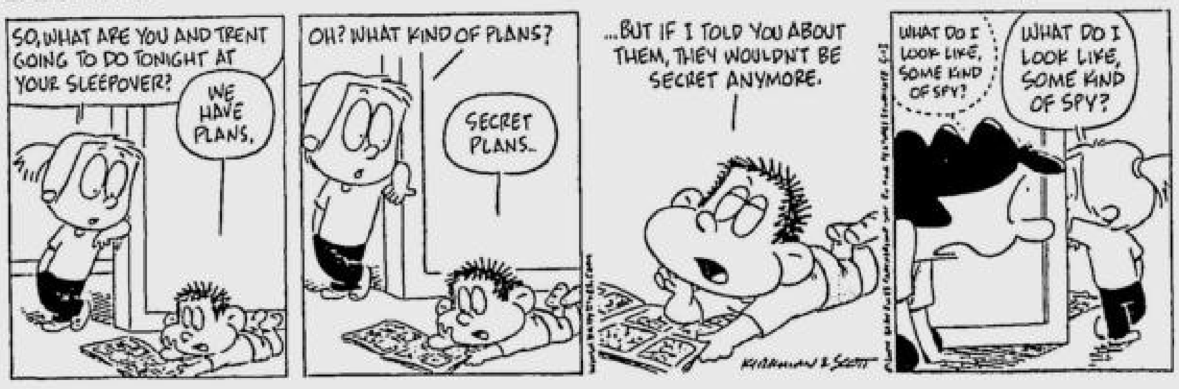
MARVIN
BY TOM ARMSTRONG


FACE IT, JUAN. IT'S A FACT OF NATURE.
TINY DOGS HAVE HIGH, YAPPY VOICES.
5-13
...AND USING AN ELECTRONIC MEGAPHONE ISN'T GOING TO FOOL ANYBODY.
YIP YIP YIP

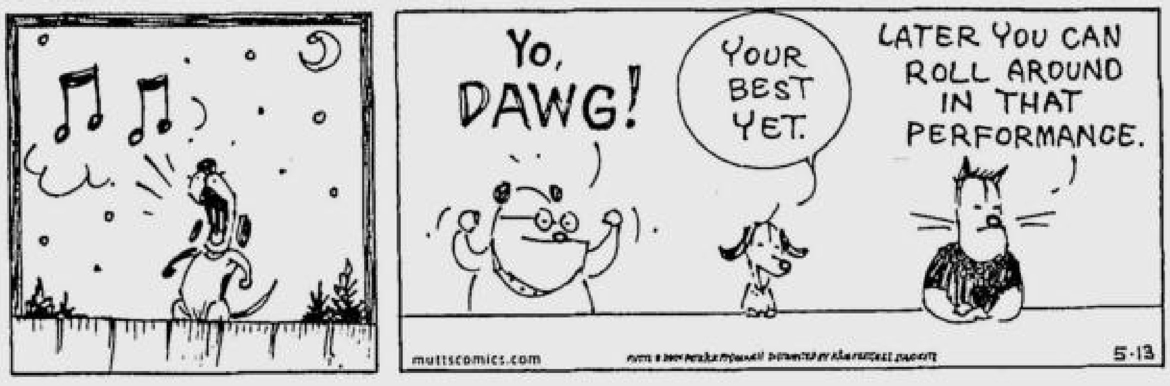
PUGAD BABOY
BY P.M. JUNIOR


ANG SAMA NG PANAGINIP KO KAGABI.
NAMATAY KA DAW AT CRINEMATE ANG KATAWAN MO.
ANO'NG NANGYARI PAGKATAPOS AKONG MA-CREMATE?
EWAN KO. GANO'N LANG ANG PANAGINIP KO HANGGANG MA-GISING AKO.
MAKATOTOHANAN PALA 'YUNG PANAGINIP MO, SENYORITO.
BAKET?
KAHIT TAPOS NA KASING MA-CREMATE SI IGNO E WALONG ORAS PA RING MAGLI-LIYAB 'YUNG KATAWAN N'YAN...
FOOM

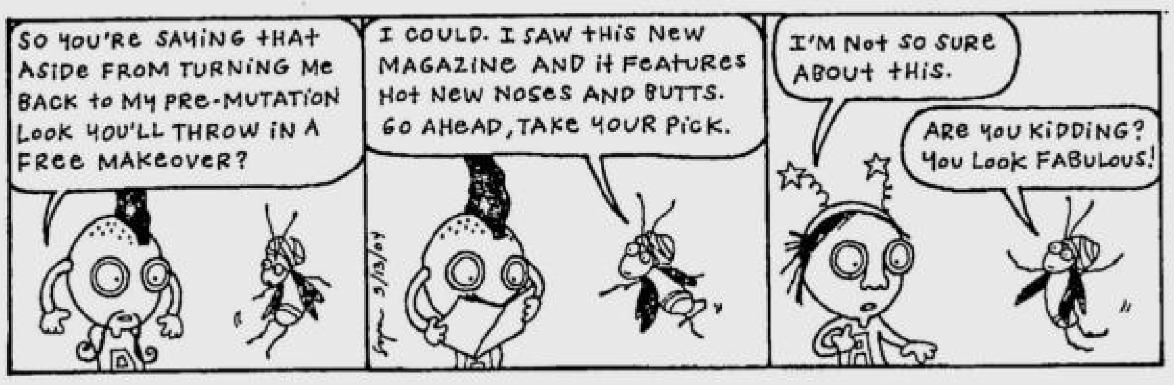
BABY BLUES
BY JERRY SCOTT


SO, WHAT ARE YOU AND TRENT GOING TO DO TONIGHT AT YOUR SLEEPOVER?
WE HAVE PLANS.
OH? WHAT KIND OF PLANS?
SECRET PLANS.
...BUT IF I TOLD YOU ABOUT THEM, THEY WOULDN'T BE SECRET ANYMORE.
WHAT DO I LOOK LIKE, SOME KIND OF SPY?
WHAT DO I LOOK LIKE, SOME KIND OF SPY?
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

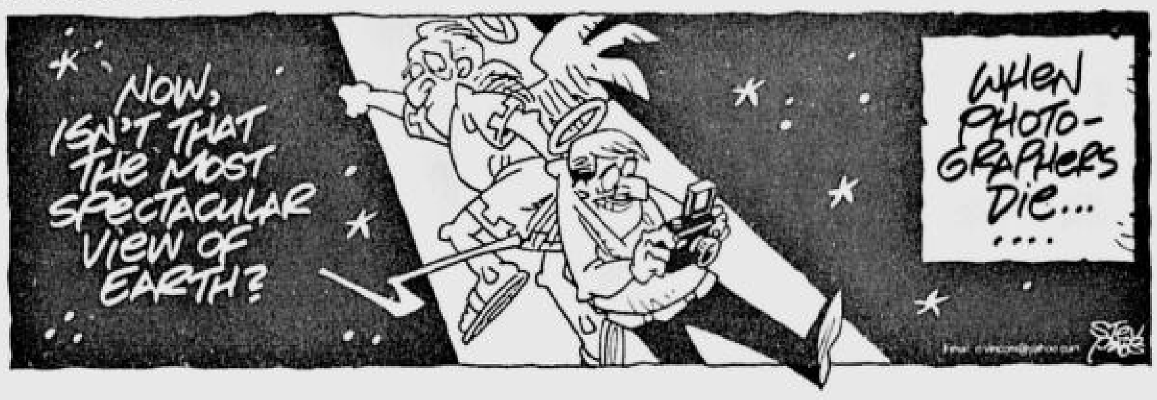
MUTTS
BY PATRICK McDONNELL


YO, DAWG!
YOUR BEST YET.
LATER YOU CAN ROLL AROUND IN THAT PERFORMANCE.
muttscomics.com
5-13

ATOMO AND WEBOY
BY LYRA GARCELLANO


SO YOU'RE SAYING THAT ASIDE FROM TURNING ME BACK TO MY PRE-MUTATION LOOK YOU'LL THROW IN A FREE MAKEOVER?
I COULD. I SAW THIS NEW MAGAZINE AND IT FEATURES HOT NEW NOSES AND BUTTS. GO AHEAD, TAKE YOUR PICK.
5/13/04
I'M NOT SO SURE ABOUT THIS.
ARE YOU KIDDING? YOU LOOK FABULOUS!

DIVINE COMEDY
BY STEVEN PABALINAS


NOW, ISN'T THAT THE MOST SPECTACULAR VIEW OF EARTH?
WHEN PHOTOGRAPHERS DIE....

HOROSCOPE
BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: Others find you very appealing. This is because you are natural, earthy and, above all, playful. You like to be free to do your own thing. Privately, you're much more serious than you appear. You value home, family and property, because these things make you feel secure. Expect a social year ahead!
Birthdate of: Dennis Rodman, basketball player; Stevie Wonder, singer/composer; Harvey Keitel, actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You need a little solitude today. You feel a bit tender and vulnerable. Do something to buffer yourself from the harsh realities around you. (It's hard out there without your towel.)

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): A female friend needs comforting or attention from you today. Be sensitive to wherever this might occur. Keep your antennae tuned in.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Discussions with a parent (especially your mother) or a female boss or authority figure are likely today. Be careful, because whatever you do will attract attention to you now.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Avoid political or religious arguments with others. Because your emotions are too involved today, you tend to identify with your beliefs right now. (Not a bad thing, but you lose objectivity.)

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Think about what you owe others. Is there something you need to share with someone, especially a female individual? Perhaps someone needs your help.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): The Moon is opposite your sign today; you have to be more patient and diplomatic than usual. (To see where others are truly coming from, you'd have to walk a mile in their wedgies.)

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You might want to do something related to home crafts, home care or even personal hygiene today. It's the perfect day to get all those sundry items that you need from the drugstore. Stock up.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Experiences with romantic partners are more intense today. However, you might feel jealous or possessive. Ironically, this will not help your relationship!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You might be trying to hold on to something too hard. The irony is that it might only lead to you losing the very thing you're holding on to! The more you squeeze, the more it slips away.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): All your conversations seem to have a deeper emotional depth to them today. You don't want surface chitchat. You want to get down to the nitty-gritty.

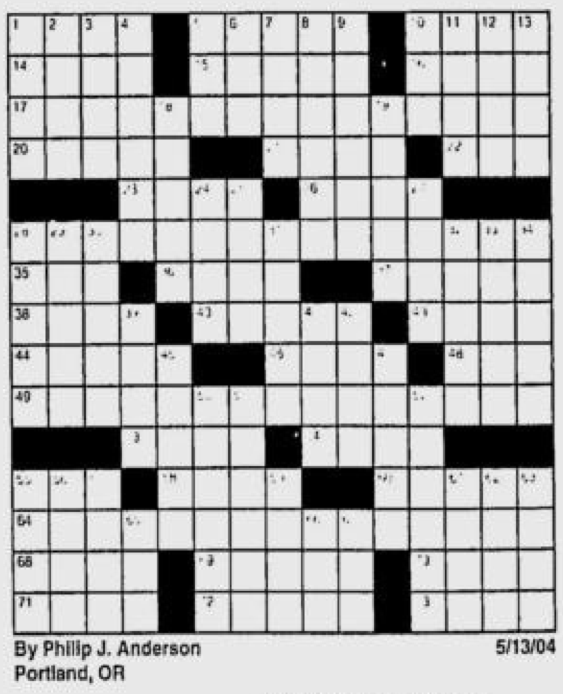
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You might feel a bit possessive about what you own today. It's not a good day to try to share things. At least be aware of this impulse.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You feel more emotional than usual today. Therefore, you are emotionally giving as well as emotionally demanding. Keep this in mind when dealing with others.

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Road shoulder
5 Off. notes
10 Singing voice
14 Potpourri
15 Crow's-nest location
16 Quantum __
17 When in doubt...
20 Irritated
21 Metric meas.
22 Weighty weight
23 Metal waste
26 Hint
28 When in doubt...
35 Fond du __, WI
36 Rabbit's title
37 Lake near Reno
38 Press
40 McCowen and Guinness
43 Scarlett s plantation
44 Land measures
46 Kindergarten breaks
48 Former Mid-East nation
49 When in doubt...
53 Hook's goter
54 Lowest high tide
55 Maximum limit
58 Red planet
60 Actress Dianne
64 When in doubt..
68 Wedding vows
69 Twin Cities suburb
70 Singer Braxton
71 Pack down
72 Copter blade
73 Guessed figs.

DOWN
1 Quantum theorist Niels
2 People of "The Time Machine"
3 Brooklet
4 Unpretentious
5 Scottish prefix
6 "Do Ya" grp.
7 Pianist Thelonious
8 Work room
9 "__ by Starlight"
10 Pub drink
11 Time of fasting
12 Tijuana snack
13 Bid first
18 Off-the-cuff remark
19 Drive (out)
24 Taj Mahal site
25 Scottish Highlander
27 South Dakota, to Pierre
28 Relating to a pelvic bone
29 Stupor: pref.
30 Derision
31 QB Dilfer
32 Company on the move?
33 PGA's Blue Monster
34 Full calendars
39 Scottish loch
41 "High Hopes" lyricist
42 "Pursuit of the Graf __"
45 __ cum laude
47 Create fish
50 Horseshoe point
51 Shipworm
52 Narcotic
55 Voucher
56 Radames' love
57 Informal formal
59 Loretta of "M*A*S*H"
61 Conceits
62 Shipped
63 Ballplayer Speaker
65 6th sense
66 6 on the phone
67 Rhine tributary



By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR
5/13/04

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

A	G	E	S	■	R	A	W	E	R	■	A	T	O	M
L	U	A	U	■	A	B	O	V	E	■	L	I	N	A
E	R	R	S	■	D	U	K	E	S	N	I	D	E	R
C	U	L	P	R	I	T	S	■	C	A	G	E	R	S
■	■	W	E	I	S	S	■	L	I	M	N	■	■	■
S	T	E	N	C	H	■	P	I	N	■	S	C	O	T
E	R	A	S	E	■	H	A	N	D	■	■	O	U	R
D	O	V	E	■	S	A	G	E	S	■	M	U	N	I
A	P	E	■	■	A	B	E	D	■	P	O	N	C	E
N	E	R	O	■	R	I	D	■	C	A	N	T	E	R
■	■	■	B	E	A	D	■	J	A	C	O	B	■	■
C	L	I	E	N	T	■	V	I	N	E	G	A	R	S
L	A	D	Y	G	O	D	I	V	A	■	A	S	E	A
A	L	O	E	■	G	A	V	E	L	■	M	I	N	K
M	O	L	D	■	A	M	A	S	S	■	Y	E	T	I

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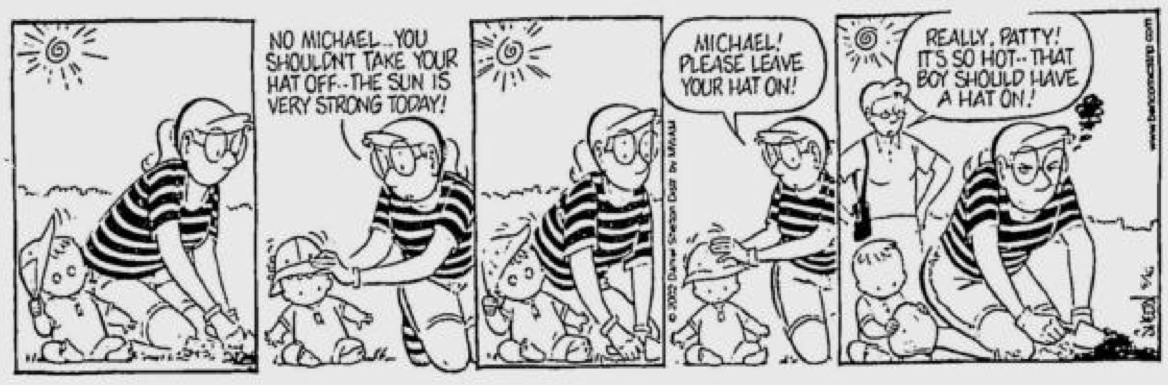
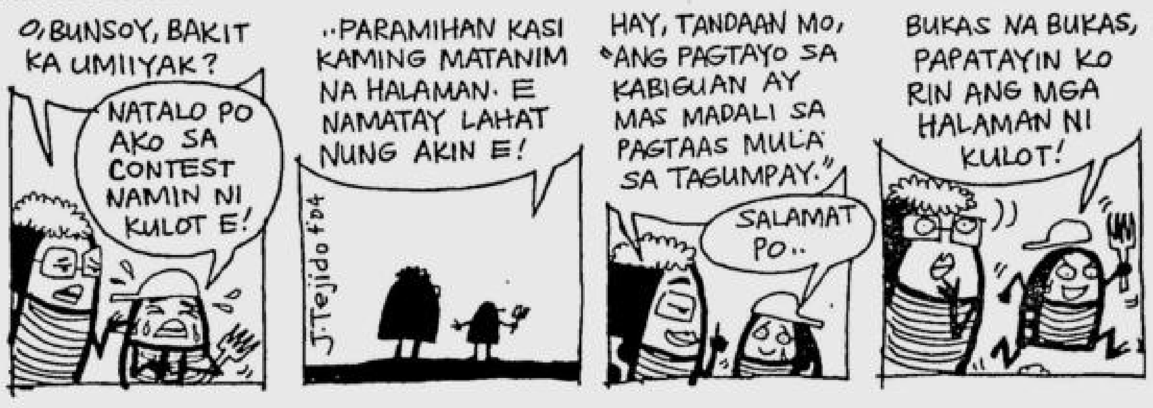
5/13/04

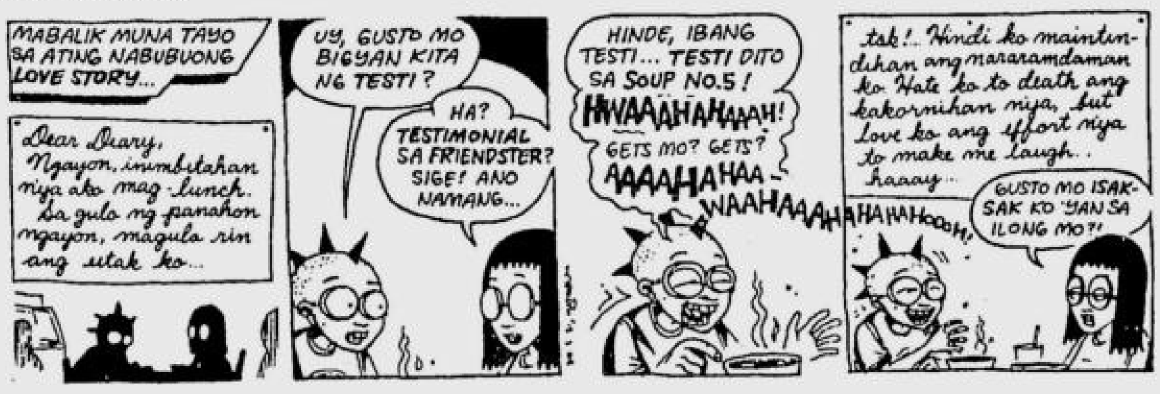
BEN
BY DANIEL SHELTON


NO MICHAEL...YOU SHOULDN'T TAKE YOUR HAT OFF--THE SUN IS VERY STRONG TODAY!
MICHAEL! PLEASE LEAVE YOUR HAT ON!
REALLY, PATTY! IT'S SO HOT--THAT BOY SHOULD HAVE A HAT ON!

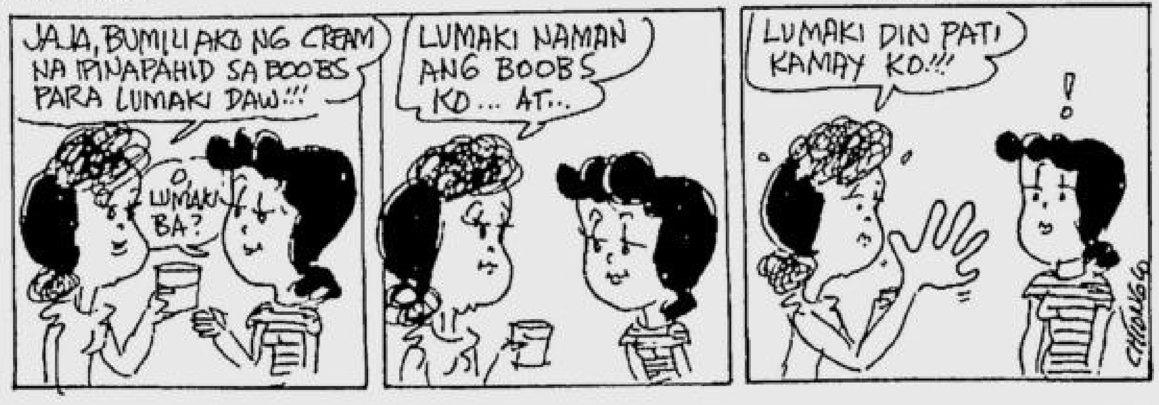
MIKROKOSMOS
BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


O, BUNSOY, BAKIT KA UMIIYAK?
NATALO PO AKO SA CONTEST NAMIN NI KULOT E!
..PARAMIHAN KASI KAMING MATANIM NA HALAMAN. E NAMATAY LAHAT NUNG AKIN E!
J. Tejido '04
HAY, TANDAAN MO, "ANG PAGTAYO SA KABIGUAN AY MAS MADALI SA PAGTAAS MULA SA TAGUMPAY."
SALAMAT PO..
BUKAS NA BUKAS, PAPATAYIN KO RIN ANG MGA HALAMAN NI KULOT!

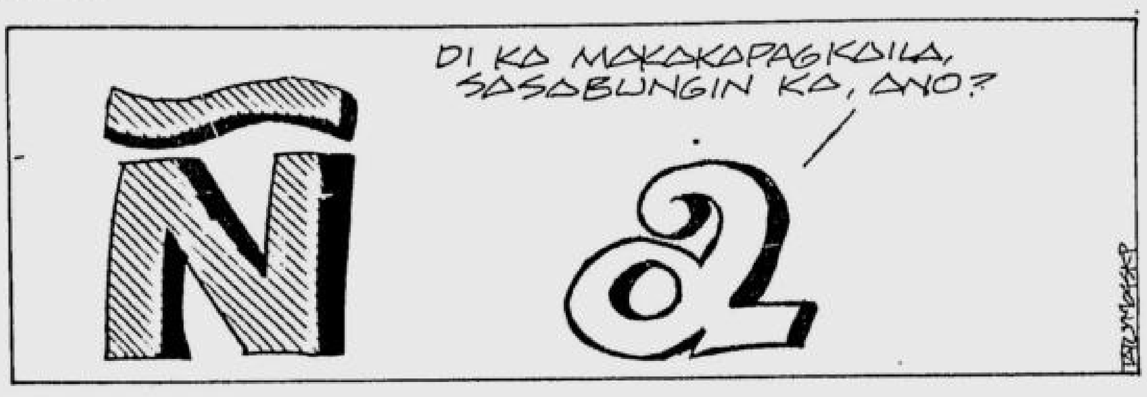
KIKO MACHINE
BY MANIX ABRERA


MABALIK MUNA TAYO SA ATING NABUBUONG LOVE STORY...
Dear Diary, Ngayon, inimbitahan niya ako mag-lunch. Sa gulo ng panahon ngayon, magulo rin ang utak ko...
UY, GUSTO MO BIGYAN KITA NG TESTI?
HA? TESTIMONIAL SA FRIENDSTER? SIGE! ANO NAMANG...
HINDE, IBANG TESTI... TESTI DITO SA SOUP NO.5!
HWAAAHAHAAAH!
GETS MO? GETS?
AAAAHAHAA-WAAHAAAHAHAHAHOOOH!
tsk!.. Hindi ko maintindihan ang nararamdaman ko. Hate ko to death ang kakornihan niya, but love ko ang effort niya to make me laugh.. haaay..
GUSTO MO ISAKSAK KO 'YAN SA ILONG MO?!

LOVEKNOTS
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


JAJA, BUMILI AKO NG CREAM NA IPINAPAHID SA BOOBS PARA LUMAKI DAW!!!
O, LUMAKI BA?
LUMAKI NAMAN ANG BOOBS KO... AT...
LUMAKI DIN PATI KAMAY KO!!!
!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK
BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


DI KO MAKAKAPAGKAILA, SASABUNGIN KA, ANO?
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Quirky musical, sexy puppet show get Tony nominees

NEW YORK — "Wicked," a quirky and fantasy-filled musical prequel to "The Wizard of Oz," was nominated Monday for 10 Tony Awards, Broadway's highest honor.

"Assassins," the chilling Stephen Sondheim-John Weidman musical about presidential killers, followed with seven nominations.

Two Pulitzer Prize winners squared off against each other for best play. Doug Wright's "I Am My Own Wife," which took the Pulitzer for drama this year, competes against "Anna in the Tropics," the 2003 winner.

Also nominated were "The Retreat From Moscow," William Nicholson's story of a crumbling marriage, and "Frozen," Bryony Lavery's harrowing tale of a child's abduction and murder.

Besides "Wicked," the other candidates for best musical: "Caroline, or Change," a look at the relationship between a black maid and her white employer's young son; "Avenue Q," a puppet show filled with songs and sex; and "The Boy From Oz," the Peter Allen musical biography starring Hugh Jackman as the Australian entertainer.

Jackman, who will serve as host for the Tony telecast on June 6, is a strong favorite in the actor-musical category where he will face Alfred Molina, "Fiddler on the Roof"; Hunter Foster, "Little Shop of Horrors"; Euan Morton, "Taboo"; and John Tartaglia, "Avenue Q."

"Wicked," a $14 million extravaganza about the witches of "Oz" before Dorothy arrives on the Yellow Brick Road, is the show to beat. The musical is the season's biggest success, grossing more than $1 million each week.

Competing against the "Wicked" witches for best actress in a musical are Donna Murphy for "Wonderful Town," Tonya Pinkins for "Caroline, or Change" and Stephanie D'Abruzzo for "Avenue Q."

Kevin Kline and Christopher Plummer were nominated for their roles in two Shakespeare productions, "Henry IV" and "King Lear," respectively.

Nominated for best performance by an actress in a play were: Phylicia Rashad, "A Raisin in the Sun"; Eileen Atkins, "The Retreat From Moscow"; Tovah Feldshuh, "Golda's Balcony"; Anne Heche, "Twentieth Century"; and Swoosie Kurtz, "Frozen."

The seven nominations for "Assassins" were a vindication for the musical, which was much maligned by critics when it opened off-Broadway in 1991. The show will be joined in the musical-revival category by "Wonderful Town," "Fiddler on the Roof" and "Big River."

The nominations produced the inevitable disappointments, particularly for "Bombay Dreams," the expensive Bollywood musical that was a London success. The show was shut out of the best-musical category, and thus out of a production number on the Tony telecast and had to be content with three minor nominations.

The Tony Awards in 21 categories will be voted on by some 735 members of the theater industry and journalists. *AP*

FAVORITE. Jackman is nominated for "Oz."

New cable channel makes its bid for viewership

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

LAST week, we chanced upon a new cable channel added to the Skycable menu of attractions—Etc., or the Entertainment Channel. We were so taken by its offerings that we pretty much stuck to it for much of the day and night.

First, the good news: Etc. has the "Today Show" in the morning, with a replay later in the day; the NBC newscast at 6 p.m.; "Saturday Night Live," "Dateline" documentaries; the late-night talk shows of **Jay Leno** and **Conan O'Brien**; reality shows, plus other treats.

The bad news is, the channel fritters these advantages away with its overlong station breaks and trailers. This is similar to what's happening to the Lifestyle Network, whose long and repetitive breaks have discouraged us from viewing its shows on a more regular basis.

Why do the breaks on Lifestyle and Etc. have to be so long and repetitive? It could be that its shows are "undertime," with space reserved for possible commercials, so the plugs and trailers fill in these blanks.

However, they have discouraged us from sticking to the two cable channels. We channel-surf during the minutes-long breaks, and often forget to return to Lifestyle and Etc. for the remaining portions of their shows.

We hope adjustments can be made in this regard, so viewers can enjoy the two channels' treats on a more regular basis.

For our part, we are particularly appreciative of the NBC evening news on Etc., as well as the channel's "Dateline" features and the "Today" show.

The reality shows are less effective because the "ordinary" people they feature aren't very interesting, and get too hung up over their silly problems.

"Saturday Night Live" is occasionally a fun viewing treat, despite most of its episodes being rather dated. Jay Leno is still entertaining, but Conan O'Brien now comes across as too peaked and strained.

Why don't you view Etc. on Channel 20 on Skycable, and see if you agree with our observations?

'Six Feet Under'

CATCH the new season of "Six Feet Under" on Global Destiny Channel 2, starting at 10 p.m. on Tuesday, May 25. The acclaimed series takes a darkly comic look at the Fishers, a dysfunctional family that owns and operates a funeral home.

Ongoing until May 30 is a contest with the official "Six Feet Under" book as prize. Call 841-9333 for details. Five lucky winners will be chosen.

Feedback

FROM **Richard Romero** of Pasig City: "I'm glad that Filipino movies are once more attracting attention and praise in international film festivals, like in the time of **Brocka** and **Bernal**. But, more than festivals, Filipino films should participate in film markets, where movies from all over the world are sold to TV and film markets abroad.

"We should target the film markets, because the money producers could earn from them (in dollars) is greatly needed by the local movie industry..."

The audience's right

COMEDY star **Ai Ai delas Alas** is fuming over **Angeli Valenciano's** observation that her guest performance at **Piolo Pascual's** concert was too graphic for the children in the audience. The comedienne shouldn't get so ticked off. As a member of the audience, Angeli is entitled to expressing her opinion.

The performer's job is to perform, while the audience is supposed to react to that performance, one way or the other. To think that only positive comments should be made is to disrespect the audience's right to react to what it's seeing.

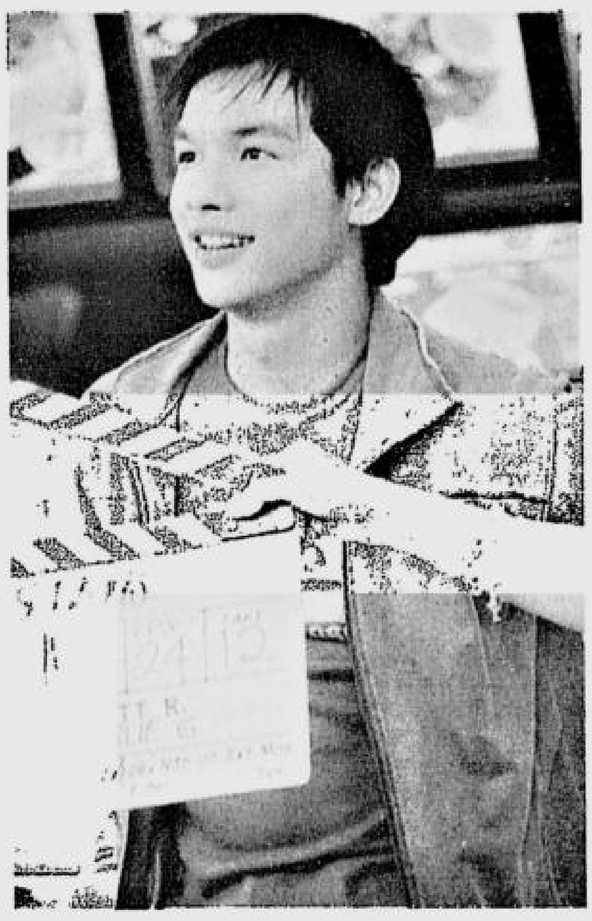
And it's also immature to impute malice in Angeli's observation. She was concerned about the negative effect of Ai Ai's costume and performance on the minors in the audience—what's so malicious about that?

'You Got Served'

COLUMBIA Pictures' "You Got Served" is about a group of friends who have channeled their energy and drive into the world of street dancing. Their experience is equal parts hard and sweet: A rift threatens to break up the core group just as a high-stakes competition hits town.

"You Got Served" topbills **Marques Houston** (from the hip-hop group (Mx) and **Omari Grandberry, Jarell Houston, DeMario Thornton and Dreux Frederic** (all from the R&B group B2K).

WOW! Sarah went to Jollibee Asturias at UST.



BIRTHDAY BOY Mark had his 10th in Cagayan.

Sarah, Mark from fast-food customers to endorsers

HOT young stars Sarah Geronimo and Mark Bautista are the latest Jollibee endorsers.

"Wow, Jollibee!" says Sarah, recalling her initial reaction to the product endorsement. *"Sino ba naman ang ayaw?"*

Both youngsters grew up with a simple lifestyle but suddenly became household names when they won Viva Entertainment's "Star for a Night."

"Noong maliit ako gustung-gusto kong umarte," says Sarah, who stars in the afternoon soap "Princess Sarah." *"Pero nang nabigyan ako ng* break, *na*-realize *ko na hindi pala madali* ."

Says Mark, 20: "There were times when I wanted to give in *dahil sa pagod at puyat.* But I just thought *na nakaka*-inspire *ako ng tao,* especially *yung mga galing sa* provinces *like yung mga taga*-Mindanao *kagaya ko.* That made me want to remain in this business for as long as I can. I admit *talagang nag*-e-enjoy *ako sa ginagawa ko.*"

Sarah says she misses her friends whom she now seldom sees because of her hectic schedule. She remembers the time when she and her classmates at the University of Sto. Tomas (UST) would hang out at Jollibee Asturias. Now that she finds it hard to go back to school, she has applied for a home study program.

"Dati, noong wala pa kaming pera, inililibre lang ako ng mga kaibigan ko sa Jollibee," she says, referring to the time when her family was still struggling before she won a million pesos and a recording contract in Viva's talent search. Now she can afford to buy as much Chickenjoy as she wants.

"Nakakatuwa lang kasi ngayon ako na ang naglilibre," she adds.

"I celebrated my 10th birthday at Jollibee in Cagayan de Oro," says Mark, "complete with games and giveaways."

"Sarah and Mark represent today's youth, dynamic, talented and enthusiastic," says Jollibee marketing manager Lot Legaspi. "We believe they can be good role models to their peers."

Watch, listen to ABS-CBN on the Web

FILIPINOS worldwide can now listen to and watch live ABS-CBN radio and television programs on their computers.

Called "ABS-CBN Now!," the new on-line audio and video streaming service includes live feeds and breaking news of the ABS-CBN News Channel and of radio stations dzMM and WRR, as well as Star Cinema blockbusters and UAAP games.

Subscribers must have a computer and an Internet connection. A broadband connection is recommended for high-quality video and audio streaming, but not required, to enjoy watching or listening to the ABS-CBN TV and radio programs.

For subscription, log on to www.abs-cbn.com and click the ABS-CBN Now! tab.

Subscription fee is US$4.95.

Free movie passes

LOYAL users of Coolmint Listerine PocketPaks are in for a movie treat as Listerine teams up with Ayala Cinemas.

Simply exchange empty 24-strip vials of Coolmint Listerine PocketPaks for free movie tickets to blockbuster films during the three weekends of May at the Glorietta 4, Greenbelt 3, and Alabang Town Center.

New Cool Mint Listerine PocketPaks oral care strips are available in supermarkets, drugstores and convenience stores nationwide.

Oscar nominee plays super cop in 'The Bullet'

FUN AND F/X. Hounsou (left) in "The Bullet"

AFRO-AMERICAN actor Djimon Hounshou debuted in the Academy Award winning "Gladiator" opposite Russel Crowe, where he was immediately noted for his performance. Now, Hounshou trades slave/warrior roles for that of a super cop in the action-comedy "The Bullet."

"My role here is serious super cop who is after Moltes, who escapes from prison because he is running after his winning lottery ticket," says Hounshou. "The movie is packed with special effects and unlike the period films I usually do, this one has got a lot of comedy in it."

Hounsou further describes his role (Inspector Youssouf) as a hounding vermin. Like every cop, Inspector Youssouf has got his enemy number one, and in this case, it's Moltes, also known as The Boss. He's a big pain on the officer's butt."

When Moltes escapes from jail, Hounsou's Inspector Youssouf is back to square one: "They all went to the slammer but one morning, Moltes clears out. I track him through the streets of Paris but he slips through my fingers."

In the 2003 Oscars, Hounsou was nominated for best supporting actor for his performance in "In America."

"The Bullet" is a Warner Bros.-Thomas Langmann co-production, to be released by TNV Films International on May 19.

Show biz, politics go together like horse and carriage

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

JUDGING from the reports, the May 10 elections were fairly peaceful. Thank God.

I pray that all our candidates would either gracefully accept defeat or honorably take their victory, even as they keep the promises they made to their constituents.

Actor and congressional candidate **Joey Marquez**, as early as on the night of the elections, conceded to his opponent, **J. Roilo Golez**, with a dignity that surprised a lot of people. I hope all losing candidates follow his lead. We need unity and prayer for our country to move forward. It's time to stick to the issues and I hope our newly elected leaders will face them head on and finally solve them.

It has always been said that there is indeed parallelism between politics and show biz. Let's look at things from a different view. The following are points I've discovered because of the recent events that happened in our country. You may or may not take them seriously.

Both worlds are rife with intrigues. In show biz, you have to be tough for intrigues can come from nowhere like a virus. In Philippine politics, mudslinging is the name of the game. Reports will say that one is corrupt, or another is the brother of a sister of an uncle of a criminal or whatever. I have heard of stories of politicians who are closet gays or who have sired many illegitimate children. Just like in show biz, some of these stories can be true, while others are just meant to destroy the image of the politician/actor.

In both worlds, there are stars, small stars, new faces etc. The big stars are more expensive and have more power. The new ones and the extras get less.

The more beautiful you are, the more powerful you get. In show biz, if you're not naturally beautiful, you go to a well-respected cosmetic surgeon like Dr. **Vicky Belo** (for me, it's she or nobody else) or employ other means for help. I think politicians do the same. They spend millions on spin doctors, consultants, survey experts, fashion designers, image stylists etc. so they would always look refreshing to their constituents.

In show biz, we have all sorts of titles. From Super to Mega to Star for all Seasons. It's the same in politics. There's Mr. Palengke, there's Idolo ng Masa etc. Some politicians even resort to gimmicks in their campaign such as dancing or singing or even doing a split on stage.

The comparison can go on and on. But in both politics and show biz, there is always a time when the lights are dimmed and the cameras stop to roll. The end, which is mostly dark and lonely, is a result of how you fared in your chosen path.

Desperate for tickets

MY friend is bugging me every day to get him tickets to the Black Eyed Peas concert on May 29 at the CCP grounds. He sends me text messages and calls me every day, asking if I can get him at least five tickets to the rap group's show, "Island Flava," which is also the launch of the new radio station, Blazin' 105.9 FM.

For those of you who don't know, Black Eyed Peas is the group behind the hit songs "Where is the Love?," "Shut Up" and "Hey Mama." Their current album, "Elephunk," also features the "APL Song" which has a Filipino chorus. One of the group's members, Apl, is a Filipino. It is said he can't wait to come to Manila and perform for his countrymen.

My friend has even threatened not to talk to me forever if I don't get him tickets. Actually, I don't blame him for sounding this desperate and resorting to blackmail so he can get tickets from me. After all, the Black Eyed Peas, according to my daughter, is the hottest act nowadays.

Anyway, I told him to call the numbers 687-3190 or 91 so he can inquire about the tickets, or to tune in to Blazin 105.9 for a chance to win.

For feedback, e-mail friends_elpueblo@yahoo.com or dollyanne@truefaithband.com

Ex-Madam Heidi sues actor ex-lover

LOS ANGELES—Former Hollywood Madam Heidi Fleiss sued actor Tom Sizemore for damages stemming from their turbulent, yearlong relationship as prosecutors said on Monday they may charge Sizemore with violating a court order to stay away from Fleiss and from illegal drugs.

The 42-year-old actor's new troubles stem from his 2003 conviction for beating and threatening ex-girlfriend Fleiss during their on-again, off-again romance.

Sizemore was sentenced to six months in jail in October 2003 and was ordered to complete a residential drug rehab program for an admitted addiction to crystal methamphetamine.

Prosecutors filed documents on Monday accusing the actor of violating his three-year probation by phoning and showing up at Fleiss' residence and of testing positive for crystal methamphetamine.

Prosecutors are expected to ask the judge in the case to order a hearing on whether to revoke Sizemore's probation and send him back to jail or to drug treatment, according to a spokesperson of the City Attorney.

Fleiss, 38, testified during Sizemore's trial in August 2003 that the actor who starred in Steven Spielberg's "Saving Private Ryan" was prone to fits of rage in which he punched and choked her, and once stubbed out a cigarette on her.

Jurors in the six-day trial heard excerpts of more than 70 obscenity-laced phone calls in which Sizemore threatened to kill his former girlfriend.

Fleiss, who served federal prison time for running a 1990s call-girl ring for Hollywood's rich and famous, reiterated the allegations in an April 28 lawsuit filed against Sizemore in Los Angeles.

The lawsuit seeks unspecified damages for medical bills, emotional suffering, lawyers' fees and compensation for Fleiss' property that she contends Sizemore gave to other women.

Sizemore's spokesperson said the actor had no comment on the suit. *Reuters*

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TROY **PG13** 12:25, 3:35, 6:45, 9:55	**CONFESSIONS OF A TEENAGE DRAMA QUEEN** **GP** 12:05, 2:00, 3:55, 5:50, 7:45, 9:40	**TROY** **PG13** 1:10, 4:20, 10:40

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More movies on pages B4 and B5.

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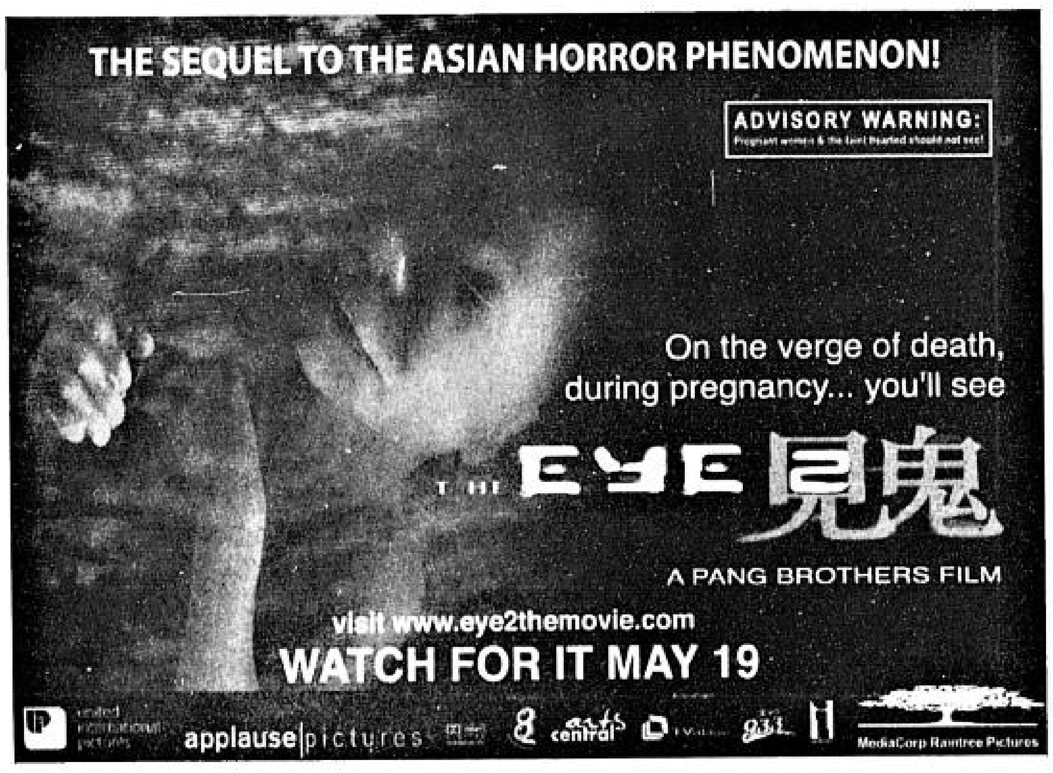
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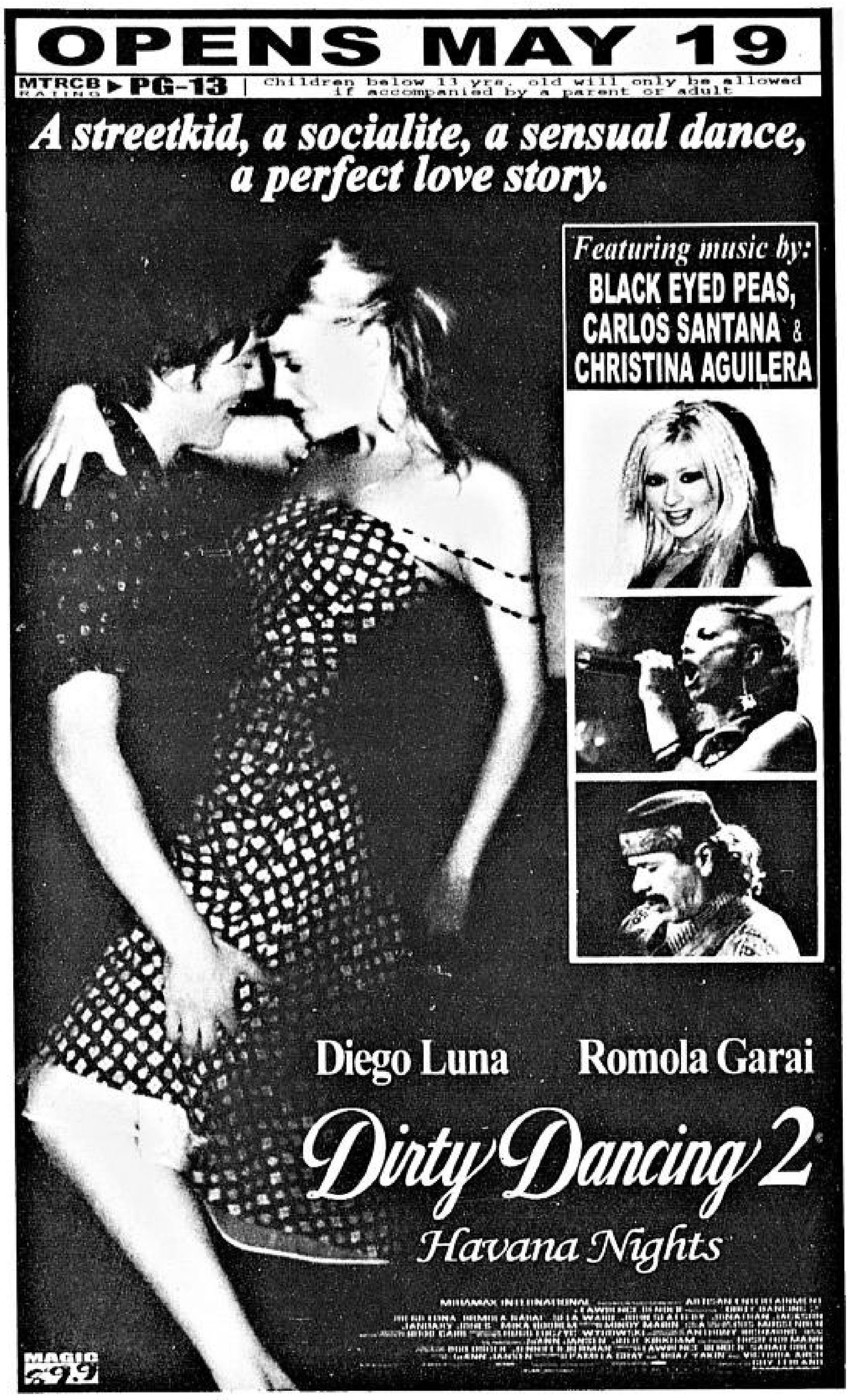
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GRAND OPENING TODAY!
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ERIC BANA
ORLANDO BLOOM
A WOLFGANG PETERSEN FILM
TROY
DIANE KRUGER
BRIAN COX
SEAN BEAN
JULIE CHRISTIE
PETER O'TOOLE
WARNER BROS. PICTURES PRESENTS
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BOB RINGWOOD PETER HONESS A.C.E. NIGEL PHELPS ROGER PRATT B.S.C. DAVID BENIOFF WOLFGANG PETERSEN DIANA RATHBUN COLIN WILSON
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AYALA CINEMAS

ATC Alabang Town Center: 1 TROY; 2 TROY; 3 TROY; 4 JERSEY GIRL; 5 VAN HELSING
G1 Glorietta 1: 1 VAN HELSING; 2 TROY; 3 TROY; 4 I WILL SURVIVE
G4 Glorietta 4: 1 TROY; 2 VAN HELSING; 3 Guaranteed seats TROY 12 45 4 00 7 15 10 30; 4 MY WIFE IS A GANGSTER; 5 MAN ON FIRE; 6 TROY; 7 JERSEY GIRL
GB1 Greenbelt 1: 1 VAN HELSING 1:30, 4 10, 6.50, 9 30; 2 TROY 11:15, 2 30 5:45, 9:00
GB3 Greenbelt 3: 1 Guaranteed seats TROY 12 15 3 30, 6 45 10 00; 2 Guaranteed seats TROY 2 40, 5 55 9 10; 3 Guaranteed seats JERSEY GIRL 12 50 2 55 5 00 7 05 9 10 11 15; 4 Guaranteed seats VAN HELSING 2 30 5 10, 7 50 10 30; 5 Guaranteed seats TROY 1 45 5 00 8 15 11 30
ACC Ayala Center Cebu: 1 TROY; 2 TROY; 3 JERSEY GIRL; 4 VAN HELSING; 5 HELLBOY

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Cinema 1 - 12:15 pm, 3:30, 6:45, 10:00
Cinema 2 - 12:55 pm, 4:10, 7:25, 10:40
Cinema 5 - 11:35 am, 2:50 pm, 6:05, 9:20
AYALA CENTER CEBU
Cinema 2 - 12:15 pm, 3:05, 6:15, 9:45
Cinema 4 - 11:15 am, 2:05 pm, 5:15, 8:45
GLORIETTA 1
Cinema 1 - 1:30 pm, 4:45, 8:00
Cinema 2 - 12:15, 3:30, 6:45, 10:00
GLORIETTA 4
Cinema 1 - 2:05 pm, 5:20, 8:35
Cinema 3 - 12:45 pm, 4:00, 7:15, 10:30
Cinema 6 - 12:05 pm, 3:20, 6:35, 9:50
GREENBELT 1
Cinema 2 - 11:15 am, 2:30 pm, 5:45, 9:00
GREENBELT 3
Cinema 1 - 12:15 pm, 3:30, 6:45, 10:00
Cinema 2 - 2:40 pm, 5:55, 9:10
Cinema 5 - 1:45 pm, 5 00, 8:15, 11:30

Schedules are subject to change without prior notice.
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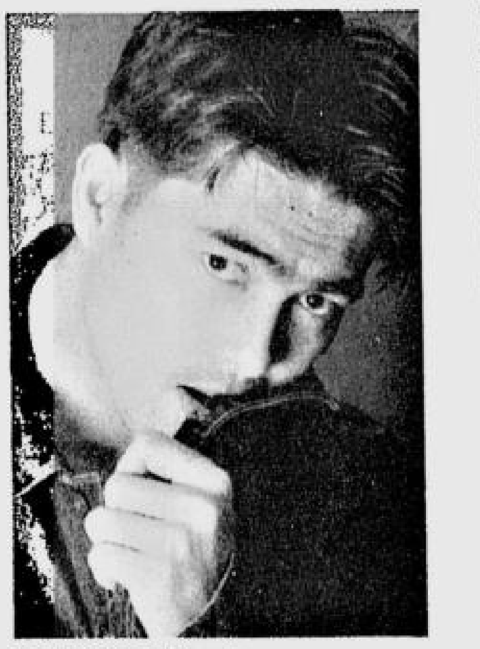
ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino

Parsons protests, Manalo accepts

By Marinel R. Cruz, Luige del Puerto and Jocelyn Valle
Contributor



FIRST-TIMER Manalo

"I WUZ CHEATED," cries Parsons

"I GAVE MY BEST," says Veloso

FORMER Hagibis member Sonny Parsons, who ran for mayor in Marikina City in last Monday's elections, is singing a song of protest these days.

Parsons was trailing behind incumbent Mayor Marides Fernando in the counting of votes.

Other candidates from show business who were also losing were not as angry as Parsons.

Parsons (real name, Jose Nabiula), a former Marikina councilor who made headlines in July 2002 when he single-handedly killed three robbery suspects, on Tuesday threatened to file a motion seeking to declare a failure of election in Marikina due to what he described as massive cheating and brownouts.

Leading in the counting

Parsons accused City Hall employees of ballot switching and Fernando of instigating brownouts in several barangays which he considered his bailiwicks.

Parsons alleged that several residents had spotted a car bearing the seal of the mayor's office, whose occupants shot a Meralco transformer, resulting in the brownout.

"The residents were able to identify the car's plate number," Parsons told INQUIRER Entertainment in a telephone interview Tuesday night. "I was leading in the initial counting, *pero nung* nag-brownout, *lamang na siya* (Fernando)."

But police investigators who checked the transformer found no bullet marks on the transformer.

Overloading caused the transformer to explode, police said. A Meralco lineman who inspected the transformer confirmed this.

But yesterday, Parsons said he was not filing his motion yet. "Pumapasok na ang votes sa District II," he said. "There's a chance of victory. Traditionally mahina ako sa District I, but District II is my base."

THAT'S A WINNER. "That's" graduate Alarcon leads in vice governor's race.

Three hours of sleep

In nearby Rizal province, former "That's Entertainment" member Jestoni Alarcon was not losing. He had a comfortable lead over his closest competitor for the position of vice governor. Still, he was closely watching the tally.

Alarcon, who ran under Raul Roco's party, Aksyon Demokratiko, admitted that being vice governor was a big leap from his current position as councilor of Cainta.

"I was requested to try this position, so I ran," he said. "*At ginawa ko namgn ang lahat para ma-*reach *ang mga tao kahit madalas* three hours *ang tulog ko. Suwerte tayo talaga.*"

Alarcon said it was too early for him to set his sights on a higher political position. "I will first focus on being a vice governor," he said. "It's the vice governor who presides over the provincial board. It's important for him to have a good relationship with the mayors and the board members.

"I'll work for the legislation of my livelihood programs, especially for the housewives so they can supplement their husbands' income. I'll also push for the development of our tourism. There should be a long-term comprehensive plan for Rizal."

Alarcon, who was last seen in the soap opera, "Twin Hearts," made it clear that he wouldn't leave show business even when he becomes very busy in politics.

No regrets

In Manila, award-winning actor Jay Manalo apparently lost in his first bid to be a councilor in the city's second district.

"Tanggap na niya," said his handler, Chino Sarenas. "But he's not closing his doors to running again for public office."

Manalo won his latest best actor trophy for the movie, "Bayaran."

Also in Manila, three-time Councilor Lou Veloso didn't make it as a congressman in the 6th district. As of Tuesday, he was third among four contenders for the position.

"I have no regrets," Veloso said. "I gave my best."

He added, *"Wala akong pinanghihinayangan kasi nagawa ko naman ang mga gusto kong gawin nung time ko.* I learned what public service means. I will still help. I will continue my theater program."

As councilor, Veloso converted an old warehouse in Sta. Ana into a community theater.

DID YOU KNOW...

SEVERAL stars were seen at the Alabang Town Center last Sunday, Mother's Day. Parañaque Mayor **Joey Marquez** was with a pretty, long-haired woman companion, **Stella Ruiz** was with her husband and their kid, **Brad Turvey** was signing autographs at the Penshoppe store, and couple **Carmina Villaroel** and **Zoren Legaspi** were strolling with their twins.

SHOW STOPPER

'Guitar god' and 'Foxy Lady' live in Manila

GUITARIST Tuck Andress and singer Patti Cathcart, also known as Tuck & Patti, will perform a two-night concert at the Meralco Theater on May 21 and 22 at 8 p.m.

Tuck & Patti have 10 albums to their credit, including "Tears of Joy" (1988), "Love Warriors" (1989), "Dream" (1991), "Learning How to Fly" (1994), "The Best of Tuck & Patti" (1997), "Paradise Found" (1998) and the more recent "A Gift of Love" (2004).

With their style reminiscent of that of Joe Pass and Ella Fitzgerald during the 1950s, Tuck & Patti do their own takes on the old standards along with remakes of other genres such as Motown, Latin, gospel and pop with a sprinkling of blues and funk. Local jazz aficionados best remember them for their version of the Cyndi Lauper hit, "Time After Time."

Tuck is already considered a demigod in guitar circles for his virtuoso solo style that hints at such influences as Wes Montgomery, George Benson and even Jimi Hendrix.

"I was at Woodstock and Altamont," said Patti proudly. "Jimi Hendrix called me 'Foxy Lady' on my birthday one year.

NO LOOKING BACK for Tuck & Patti

"In the bands I played with," she added, "you had to be an all-around musician, able to improvise in any style. We would make up songs on the spot and never look back."

"Tuck & Patti Live in Manila" is produced by Artistation Inc. and presented by Globe Platinum in cooperation with Petron Blaze, Northwest Airlines and Makati Shangri-La, supported in part by Listerine, Hexetidine Bactidol, Bank of the Philippine Islands, Purefoods Cold Cuts, Purefoods Maple Flavored Bacon, Rhythms@Joey 92.3, 105.1 Crossover, Monster Radio RX93.1, 96.3 WRock and The Philippine Star.

Tickets are available at SM Ticketnet (911-5555) for P2,000, P1,500 and P1,000. For inquiries, call Artistation, 884-2183 or 750-0350.

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Peso, stocks rally on likely GMA win

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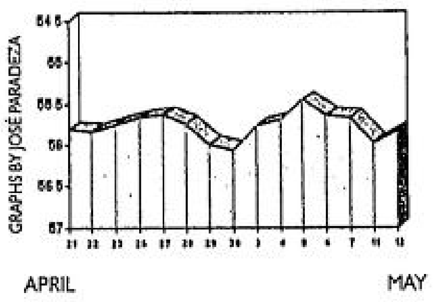


₱55.84 = $1
As of 5 p.m., May 12, 2004

¥112.56 = $1
As of 5 p.m., May 12, 2004

GOLD: $379.50-380.00
per ounce Hong Kong, May 12, 2004

May 12, 2004 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.842460	1.000000	55.9610
Japan	Yen	0.007447	0.008840	0.4947
United Kingdom	Pound	1.478349	1.754800	98.2004
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.108014	0.128213	7.1749
Switzerland	Franc	0.649545	0.771010	43.1465
Canada	Dollar	0.607617	0.721241	40.3614
Singapore	Dollar	0.489944	0.581564	32.5449
Australia	Dollar	0.584838	0.694203	38.8483
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.234761	2.652661	148.4456
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.224650	0.266660	14.9226
Brunei	Dollar	0.488524	0.579878	32.4506
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000094	0.000111	0.0062
Thailand	Baht	0.020740	0.024618	1.3776
UAE	Dirham	0.229372	0.272264	15.2362
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.187000	66.4257
Argentina	Peso	0.289754	0.343938	19.2471
Brazil	Real	0.273083	0.324149	18.1397
Denmark	Kroner	0.134372	0.159500	8.9258
India	Rupee	0.018597	0.022075	1.2353
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.221730	0.263193	14.7285
Mexico	New Peso	0.072777	0.086386	4.8342
New Zealand	Dollar	0.507751	0.602700	33.7277
Norway	Kroner	0.121555	0.144286	8.0744
Pakistan	Rupee	0.014607	0.017339	0.9703
South Africa	Rand	0.122273	0.145138	8.1221
Korea	Won	0.000709	0.000842	0.0471
Sweden	Kroner	0.108873	0.129232	7.2320
Syria	Pound	0.016264	0.019305	1.0803
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025148	0.029851	1.6705
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000440	0.000522	0.0292

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PESO yesterday rallied back to the 55 level against the US dollar, boosted by the strong rebound of Asian currencies and a nationwide exit poll predicting a fresh six-year term for president Macapagal-Arroyo.

The local currency opened at 55.92 to a dollar, fell slightly to 55.93 and closed at 55.84 or near the intra-day high of 55.81 at the Philippine Dealing System. Total turnover stood at $216.4 million.

Yesterday's close at 55.84 marked a gain of 14 centavos for the local currency from Tuesday's finish of 55.98:$1.

Stock prices also closed 2.17 percent higher yesterday, supported by Wall Street's modest recovery overnight and as investors welcomed a likely victory for Ms Macapagal, analysts said.

They said the rebound after a loss of 2.99 percent Tuesday was also helped by gains in the regional markets as investor sentiment steadied following the global selloff Monday.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index closed up 32.70 points to 1,540.96 after trading between 1,512.21 and 1,547. Volume rose to 166.9 million shares worth P477.5 million after 128.69 million shares worth P569.21 million on Tuesday. Gainers led losers 30 to 10, with 45 stocks unchanged.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said the peso has been influenced mainly by strong regional currencies and some short-selling in anticipation of further improvement in the local currency.

A strong rebound by the Japanese stock market spurred a strong demand for the yen, which posted its biggest gain against the euro in more than two weeks. This was after the Paris-based Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, consisting of G-7 countries, sharply raised its growth forecast for Japan this year.

Japan, the world's second-largest economy, is now projected to grow by 3 percent from OECD's previous forecast of 1.8 percent in November. The stronger growth is expected to trickle down to other Asian economies.

Currency traders also said the result of an exit poll released Tuesday night by the Social Weather Stations was likewise warmly received by the market.

"It appears now that there no other issues regarding the winner of the election. The uncertainty has been minimized significantly," said Wick Veloso, treasurer of HSBC Philippines.

"It's also more because the yen has recovered and there's now more interest from offshore players to put money in the Philippines," Veloso added.

British bank HSBC is one of the biggest custodians of foreign funds flowing to the Philippines.

"Investors have somewhat started to calm down. The conduct of the election was generally peaceful and the ... exit poll indicated there will be continuity in the reforms and programs of the government," said Gomer Tan of Regina Capital Development Corp.

"Today's rise is more a technical rebound than anything and the Philippines is not an isolated case. A lot of investors in the US who were caught long pulled out their money in Asia (earlier this week). We now see things settling

PESO/B2

Yield of 4-yr T-bonds rises to 10.817%

By Michelle V. Remo

THE COST of the government's four-year borrowings yesterday increased by 20.8 basis points, reversing its previous decline as the market waited for a winner in the presidential race.

The rate of the four-year treasury bond stood at 10.817 percent during yesterday's auction, up from the 10.609 percent recorded during the April 20 auction.

National Treasurer Mina Figueroa told reporters that the increase in the interest rate for the government debt paper was caused by uncertainty over who will really grab the top government post.

"This (auction result) is reflective of the market's perception of how the elections were going," Figueroa said in a briefing after the auction.

She said the tight race between the so-called "market's favorite" candidate President Macapagal-Arroyo and political novice Fernando Poe Jr. was the reason uncertainty was factored in the pricing of the treasury bond.

Partial election results as of yesterday showed only a slight lead by President Macapagal over Poe. Despite the uncertainty, however, Poe has already expressed dismay over initial election results, saying the media were erroneous in their reporting of a GMA lead.

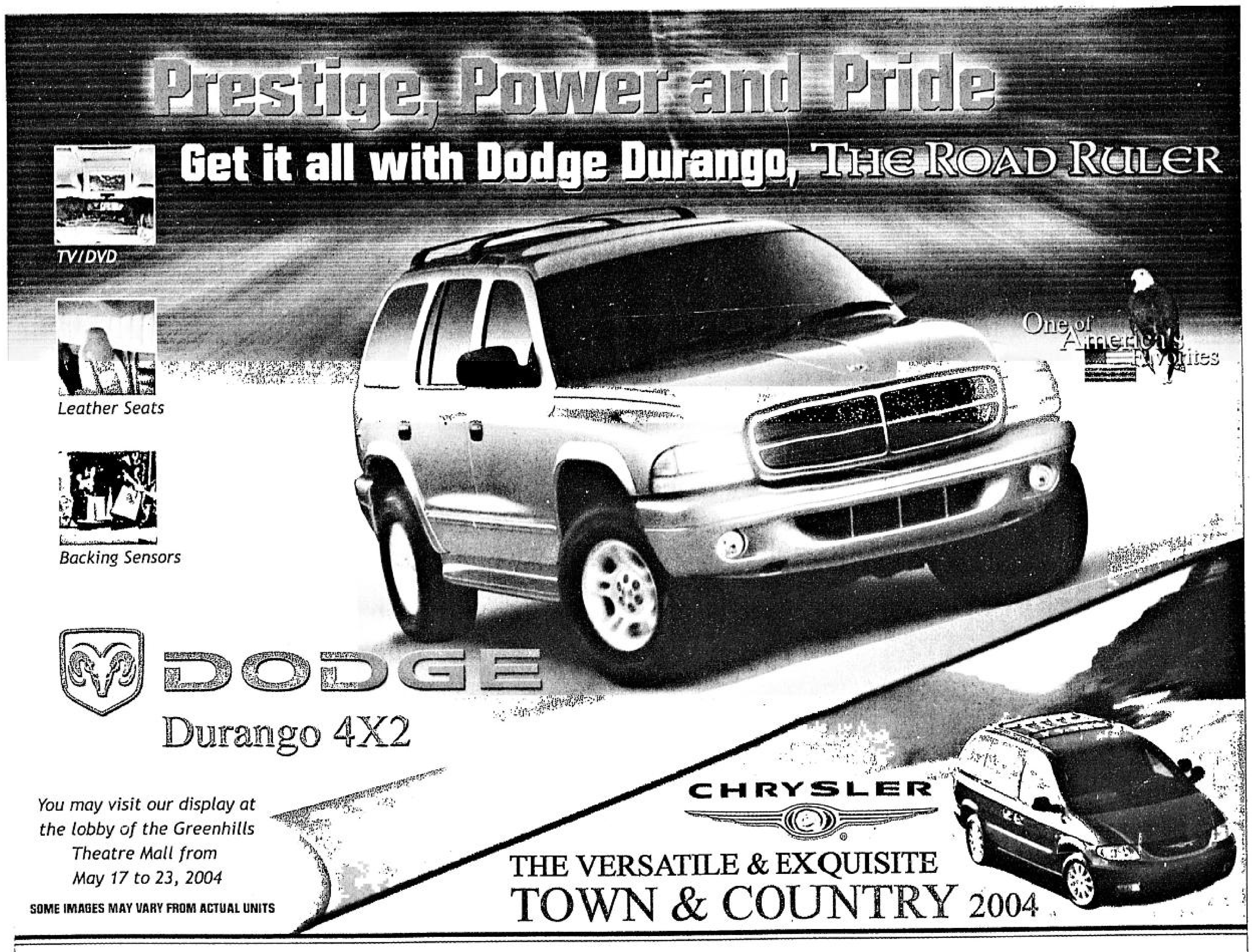
The four-year debt paper was oversubscribed, with the value of tenders reaching P5.410 billion compared with the government's offering of only P4 billion.

Figueroa said the over-subscription, however, did not mean that the market had strong appetite for the government security, considering the high return it was seeking.

"This does not also mean they are not liquid. (In fact), they have enough liquidity right now. They are just factoring in the uncertainty," she said.

The Bureau of Treasury's auction committee made a partial awarding of the bids, raising only P3.54 billion.

With the increase in the rate for the four-year T-bond, Figueroa said, the treasury was not inclined to make any special issuances (offering of government securities aside from the usual treasury bills and bonds) at this time.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Home, Sky Cable creditors want full infusion of $30M

By Clarissa S. Batino

CREDITORS of PLDT's Philippine Home Cable Holdings as well as that of Lopez-owned Sky Vision Corp. and Central CATV have asked ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. to commit the infusion of the entire $30 million in cable investments before the debt restructuring of the three cable firms would push through.

The debt restructuring would pave the way for the merger of the three cable giants to create Beyond Cable Holdings Inc.

Home Cable has an outstanding debt of P1.35 billion, Central CATV has P1.16 billion and Sky Vision has P120 million.

"The creditors won't sign the facility agreement or the restructuring deal if there is no assurance that the $30 million would be released in one tranche. There was a proposal to put the funds in an escrow but ABS-CBN said that it would entail additional cost," said an official from one of the lenders.

The mode of the $30-million infusion is the only outstanding issue stalling the debt restructuring. Once this is resolved, the creditors would sign the agreement to restructure the cable firms' principal obligations amounting to P2.52 billion.

ABS-CBN would borrow $120 million from ABN Amro.

From this facility, the Lopez-owned broadcast network would get the $30 million to settle some of the interest due on the outstanding debt of Sky and Home as well as to invest in new equipment that would ensure the viability of Beyond Cable. ABS-CBN would use the rest to pay its own debts, of which P1.9 billion are maturing this year.

But ABS-CBN is reluctant to infuse the entire $30 million even if ABN Amro had assured the cable television creditors that the $120 million it would lend to the broadcast company would be released in a single tranche.

"We want a single infusion or at least to have an assurance that when the money is needed, it would be readily available. We want something in writing to this effect because we believe that to be viable, Beyond Cable would need the entire $30 million," said another banking source.

Beyond Cable is the merger of ABS' Sky Vision Corp. and Central CATV Inc., with Home Cable of dominant carrier PLDT. The company is to be owned two-thirds by the Lopez group while PLDT would be left with the remaining 33 percent.

Of the $30 million to be invested by ABS-CBN in the cable business, $5 million would be used to update loan payments while $25 million would finance the acquisition of set-up boxes.

The set-up boxes would protect cable signals from piracy, a major problem hitting the finances of cable firms.

The source said that an earlier proposal for ABS-CBN to place the $30 million in escrow came up in reaction to a possibility that the funds would come in tranches. A PLDT official was earlier quoted as saying that the $30 million would be infused over a three-year period.

Home Cable president Rey Espinosa said that it would not be long before the creditors would finally approve the restructuring.

Development Bank of the Philippines has the biggest exposure to Home Cable. Other creditors include Bank of the Philippine Islands, Land Bank of the Philippines, United Coconut Planters Bank, Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co., Banco de Oro, JP Morgan Chase, Chinastrust Phils. and China Banking Corp.

Firm seeks extension of SPI buyout

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

US-BASED private equity firm TH Lee Putnam Ventures (THLPV) has asked the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) for another five-day extension or until May 21 to complete its acquisition of all shares in technology firm SPI Technologies Inc., Asia's biggest independent business process outsourcing provider.

Under its proposed extension, the tender offer, which started last April 12, will end on May 21 instead of the earlier schedule of May 14.

The shares are slated to be crossed (or bought and sold) in the stock market on June 2 instead of May 26.

THLPV earlier announced its plan to take control of SPI by buying 100 percent of the company's 312.2 million outstanding shares. THLPV will acquire the shares for $87.23 million or 27.94 US cents a share.

THLPV will buy the combined 71-percent stake held by Cayman Islands-based equity company Crimson Group, insurance and financial services group AIG and Philippine American Life and General Insurance Co., British equity firm Electra Partners Mauritius Ltd. and local holding firm A. Soriano Corp.

Under securities laws, a person is required to make a "tender offer" or an offer to all stockholders if that person intends to acquire 15 percent or more, 30 percent over a period of 12 months or shares that would result in ownership of 50 percent of the company.

SPI earlier said the proposed acquisition would not include its majority shareholdings in call center company eTelecare International, the country's biggest call center. SPI previously spun off eTelecare through a property dividend payable to stockholders. eTelecare plans to apply for listing in the second quarter.

THLPV is a technology-focused private equity company affiliated with Thomas H. Lee Partners, a leading buyout firm, and Putnam Investments, a global money management company.

The firm manages $1.1 billion in capital commitments. SPI, on the other hand, has grown to be the biggest independent BPO company in Asia with facilities in China, India and Vietnam. It provides medical administrative services, digital content conversion, document analysis and production of customized databases of legal documents and editorial and content production services.

TRADERS on the Manila stock market send hand signals to their colleagues during morning session on Tuesday. Philippine shares closed sharply lower Tuesday, with the main index settling at a three-week low, weighed down by concerns over a possible rise in US interest rates in the near term. Stocks however rallied yesterday to close at 1,540.96 from Tuesday's 1,508.26. AP

RFM reports P572M in net loss for '03

FOOD and beverage firm RFM Corp. reported that its net loss last year hit P572 million, reversing the previous year's earnings of P4.3 billion.

RFM said 2003 was "tough and difficult" and blamed its weakness on a weaker peso, socio-political uncertainties from the Iraq crisis and the impact of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome on consumer spending.

Despite these, RFM's revenues grew by 14 percent to P5.7 billion in 2003 from P5 billion in 2002.

In its financial report submitted to the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), RFM said net sales dropped to P6.65 billion from P9.11 billion.

Total cost of goods sold also fell to P5.7 billion from P8.15 billion. As a result, gross profit was maintained at P957 million from P958 million the previous year.

Despite lower operating expenses at P1.75 billion from P2.25 billion in 2002, the company registered losses from operations at P797 million last year from an income of P5.06 billion the previous year. (The net profit in 2002 was boosted by RFM's sale of its stake in Cosmos Bottling Corp. for P6.35 billion.)

The company also reported that its branded food group registered an 8-percent growth in revenue to P2.3 billion due to double-digit growths in its major consumer products.

RFM earlier said it hoped to return to profitability this year due to the expected growth in its branded food business.

Jose A. Concepcion III, president of RFM, had said he was optimistic that efforts to build its consumer food brands this year would help boost the listed firm's operations.

"We should break even this year. Hopefully next year (we'll make a profit), if we consolidate profit of the property, but I am not counting that yet, I'm not even counting the flour business or even chicken, we're just talking of the branded food business, which I believe is the future of RFM," Concepcion told the INQUIRER.

Concepcion also said the company planned to be more focused on its core businesses. He said he expected its canned meat arm Swift Foods to generate profit this year after recovering from the bird flu scare, and reverse the losses of roughly P120 million last year. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

Peso, stocks rally on likely GMA win

From page B1

down in the region," said James Lago of Westlink Global Equities.

Based on a nationwide exit poll by the SWS, which accurately predicted the results of previous elections, GMA garnered 40.84 percent of total votes against the 32.26 percent of her stiffest rival, Fernando Poe Jr.

The financial markets generally preferred a GMA victory to an FPJ presidency. The local stock and currency markets usually gained ground whenever pre-election surveys were in her favor.

"I think the direction now is towards appreciation," said a trader from a local commercial bank, noting the market's next target would be the dollar support at 55.50:$1.

In the equity market, the all-shares index was up 2.16 points at 938.10, the commercial-industrial index gained 55.17 to 2,407.97, property sector was up 1.40 at 540.61, mining shed 13.02 to 1,362.25 oil was unchanged at 1.20 and banking and financial services gained 9.76 to 450.79.

Dealers said there was room for further bargain-hunting today, with Wall Street's performance later Wednesday likely to set the direction. *With a report from AFP*

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May 12, 2004- MART1 Rates Benchmark Interest Rates	MART1 11-May-04	MART1 11-May-04
1 Month	7.4071	7.2229
3 Months	7.5269	7.2696
6 Months	8.6804	8.2217
1 Year	9.4519	9.095
2 Years	9.9333	9.5883
3 Years	10.58	10.335
4 Years	10.9533	10.7
5 Years	11.27	10.9017
7 Years	11.73	11.3933
10 Years	12.1446	11.9589
20 Years	12.5643	12.5083
25 Years	12.8393	12.7767

SOURCE: MART/BLOOMBERG

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of May 12, 2004)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	20,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	16.75	17	16.75	17	6,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	40.5	41.5	40.5	41.5	369,700
China Banking Corp.	680	680	680	680	80
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	39.5	40.5	39.5	40	65,200
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.52	0.53	0.52	0.53	510,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	24	24.5	24	24.25	324,400
Philippine National Bank	23.5	23.5	23.5	23.5	1,000
Phil. Savings Bank	27	27	27	27	3,500
Security Bank Corp.	16.5	17	16.5	17	86,500
Union Bank of the Phil.	24	24	24	24	1,400
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	1	1	1	1	40,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	2000	2000	2000	2000	10
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.34	1.34	1.34	1.34	95,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1455	1455	1425	1425	1,210
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	22.25	22.25	22.25	22.25	3,000
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.68	0.69	0.68	0.69	360,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	815	850	815	845	27,660
Ipeople Inc.	1.2	1.52	1.2	1.46	811,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.038	0.038	0.038	0.038	200,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.036	0.036	0.036	0.036	1,000,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	1.62	1.68	1.62	1.64	3,856,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1040	1070	1040	1060	125,220
Ivantage Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	60,000
Philweb Corp.	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.012	8,000,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	19.75	20.25	19.75	20	61,700
Manila Electric Co. B	32	33	31.5	32	2,654,500
Petron Corp.	3.25	3.35	3.25	3.3	802,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.96	0.96	0.96	0.96	20,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	133,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	64,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	160,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Union Cement Corp.	1.5	1.54	1.5	1.54	2,313,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	2,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	29.5	29.5	29.5	29.5	1,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	20	20.5	20	20.5	120,600
San Miguel Corp. A	59	59	59	59	113,800
San Miguel Corp. B	72.5	73	72.5	73	73,800
Universal Robina Corp.	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	5,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	350,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	5.4	5.6	5.4	5.5	741,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	3	3	3	3	1,207,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.019	0.019	0.019	0.019	600,000
APC Group Inc.	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	1,400,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0048	0.005	0.0048	0.005	73,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	19,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	1	1	1	1	10,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	10	11	10	11	6,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.58	0.59	0.57	0.58	5,900,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	20,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.022	0.022	0.022	0.022	9,200,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	28	28.5	28	28.5	379,100
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.74	1.74	1.74	1.74	10,000
Macroasia Corp.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	100,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.1	1.14	1.1	1.12	1,328,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	980,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	15	15	15	15	8,500
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Interphil Labs Inc. B	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	50,000
Matsushita Elec Phil Corp	8.8	8.8	8.5	8.5	50,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	300,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	30,000
Manila Jockey Club	7	7	7	7	10,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (Pdr)	22.5	22.75	22.5	22.75	14,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series O	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series P	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,400
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,300
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.6	21,774,000
C&P Homes Inc.	0.15	0.155	0.15	0.155	300,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	40,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.225	0.23	0.225	0.225	3,400,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.04	1.08	1.04	1.06	1,728,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.034	0.034	0.034	0.034	100,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.26	570,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6	6.1	6	6.1	4,353,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	100,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc B	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	100,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.2	0.2	0.195	0.195	1,000,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.25	0.25	0.245	0.245	140,000
Omico Corp.	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	10,000,000
OIL					
Pacifica	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	5,000,000

DISCLOSURES

PHILWEB Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 27, 4:30 p.m. at the 17/F, Tower 1 of The Enterprise Center, Makati City. Only stockholders of record as of May 6 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

LIBERTY Telecoms Holdings Inc. moved its annual stockholders' meeting from May 25 to Nov. 26 with record date on Nov. 5.

* * *

PHILIPPINE Realty and Holdings Corp. disclosed the resignation of Jovyanne Escano as corporate secretary of the company.

* * *

EDSA Properties Holdings Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 18 at 2 p.m. with record date on May 24.

* * *

KUOK Philippine Properties Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 18 at 10 a.m. with record date on May 24.

* * *

ALCORN Gold Resources Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 25, 2 p.m. at the Fairways Room Manila Golf and Country Club, Makati City. Only stockholders of record as of May 11 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

PHILCOMSAT Holdings Corp.'s new stock transfer agent is Emerald Registry and Transfers Corp.

* * *

MEMBERS of **Corro-Coat Inc.'s** audit committee that was formed last Dec. 3 are Renato Paras, Corazon Buenconsejo and Sonia Salvador.

* * *

ISM Communications Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 27, 3 p.m. at the 17/F, Tower 1 of The Enterprise Center, Makati City. Only stockholders of record as of April 19 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

CITYLAND Development Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 1, 4 p.m. at the 3/F of Cityland Condominium 10 Tower II, Ayala North, Makati City. Only stockholders of record as of May 2 are entitled to vote at the meeting.

Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

RCBC Capital seeks arbitration with EPCIB over Bankard

RCBC Capital Corp. has transmitted to an arbitration court in Paris a petition to nullify its purchase of Bankard from Equitable PCI Bank in 2000 for breach of its warranties including the fair and accurate presentation of its financial condition in 1999.

RCBC Capital also said in its petition directed to the International Chamber of Commerce that if the rescission of the purchase could not be granted, that it be awarded damages worth P810 million plus interest.

The petition said RCBC Capital had overpaid EPCIB by about P600 million. RCBC Capital paid a total of P1.78 billion for 67 percent of Bankard.

In its petition, RCBC Capital claimed it refused but finally agreed to forego a due-diligence examination to preempt other potential buyers on the condition that EPCIB would guarantee the integrity of its financial statements.

It added that the arbitration petition was filed after efforts at conciliation in the past few months between the parties failed.

The agreement called for conciliation and then arbitration to settle any dispute arising out of the sale of Bankard. The decision of the panel would be final and binding.

The P810 million in damages sought by RCBC Capital is broken down as follows:

- at least P556 million in actual damages,
- at least P234 million as additional consequential damages,
- at least P10 million for the damage to RCBC Capital's name and reputation,
- at least P10 million for costs and expenses, disbursements, administrative expenses, arbitrator's fees and attorney's fees incurred in connection with this dispute and arbitration.

RCBC Capital is also asking legal interest for the amount of actual damages from the date of the sale of respondents' shares to RCBC Capital, until the claim is paid.

ELECTRONICS SECTOR

Asean bucks RP plea on tariffs

By Ronnel W. Domingo

SENIOR economic officials of Southeast Asian nations have bucked a proposal from the Philippines to accelerate the removal of tariffs on electronics to 2005 from 2007.

Trade Secretary Cesar V. Purisima said that Asean officials were not comfortable with the idea of bringing forward the deadline to lift tariffs on grounds that the deadline was already advanced to 2007 from 2010.

This was conveyed to the Philippines during the meeting last month in Singapore of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations economic ministers.

Purisima pushed for the lifting of tariffs on electronic and semiconductor products traded within the region to boost regional market integration.

Asean groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

"The Philippines would provide a leeway for sensitive sectors," Purisima said. "But we would like for all the members to review their positions on the matter."

The official said the benefits of having a properly integrated market should outweigh the costs.

"It is a matter of managing the process," he said.

The trade chief, however, said the Philippines made a small gain as he and his Singaporean counterpart, Minister George Yeo, agreed in an informal bilateral consultation to increase trade cooperation in electronics.

"We should be doing more bilateral work soon after our national elections," he said.

Last month, Purisima said the government's proposal to have tariffs on electronic products removed by next year would have been a bold step as it would be the first among 11 sectors to have zero tariffs.

Gov't issues new IRR of Jewelry Act

By Michelle V. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT has issued new implementing rules and regulations of the Jewelry Industry Development Act of 1998.

The new rules were expected to put an end to the dispute between local jewelers and revenue-concerned government agencies over the system of claiming tax and duty privileges.

The Department of Finance said the IRR was issued last week upon approval of the Department of Trade and Industry, DOF, the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs.

Under the IRR, jewelers only have to go to the Board of Investments, an attached agency of the DTI, to get accreditation for their duty and tax privileged-status.

The accreditation, which is renewable every year, will be enough for the BOC to release the jewelry firm's imported products.

"This addressed bureaucracy complaints of jewelers, who opposed previous rules that still required them to get a separate endorsement from the BIR before the BOC releases their importations," said a finance official.

The BIR and the DOF earlier said jewelers could not merely claim their incentives without passing through the BIR.

The two government agencies said requiring jewelers to secure endorsement from the BIR would ensure that only qualified jewelers are granted the incentives.

DBP may take back Transco loan

By Abigail L. Ho

THE DEVELOPMENT Bank of the Philippines is having second thoughts about lending P600 million to the National Transmission Corp. (Transco) for the completion of its Leyte-Cebu interconnection project.

Transco president and chief executive Alan Ortiz said in an interview yesterday that the local lender might not push through with the loan because of some "bureaucratic requirements."

"The DBP will give a final go or no-go in about two weeks. They'll be submitting a new proposal then," he said.

Despite this development, he said the Leyte-Cebu project would push through as there were a number of other lenders that the state firm could tap.

The P3.7-billion project would enable the National Power Corp. to deliver another 200 megawatts of electricity to the power-hungry Cebu-Negros-Panay (CNP) grid from Leyte.

The Transco board late last month approved DBP's proposal to lend the P600-million counterpart funding that the state firm needed to complete the P3.7-billion project.

Japanese consortium JPower and Kanematsu are implementing the project. The turnkey contract for the Leyte-Cebu interconnection was signed in November last year.

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300,000 - 499,999	5.50	5.75	5.75	6.00	7.00
500,000 - 999,999	6.00	6.25	6.50	6.50	8.00
1.0MM - 4,999,999	7.50	7.50	7.50	7.50	8.00
5 million and up	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75	8.00

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Rates are on per annum basis and net of documentary stamp taxes

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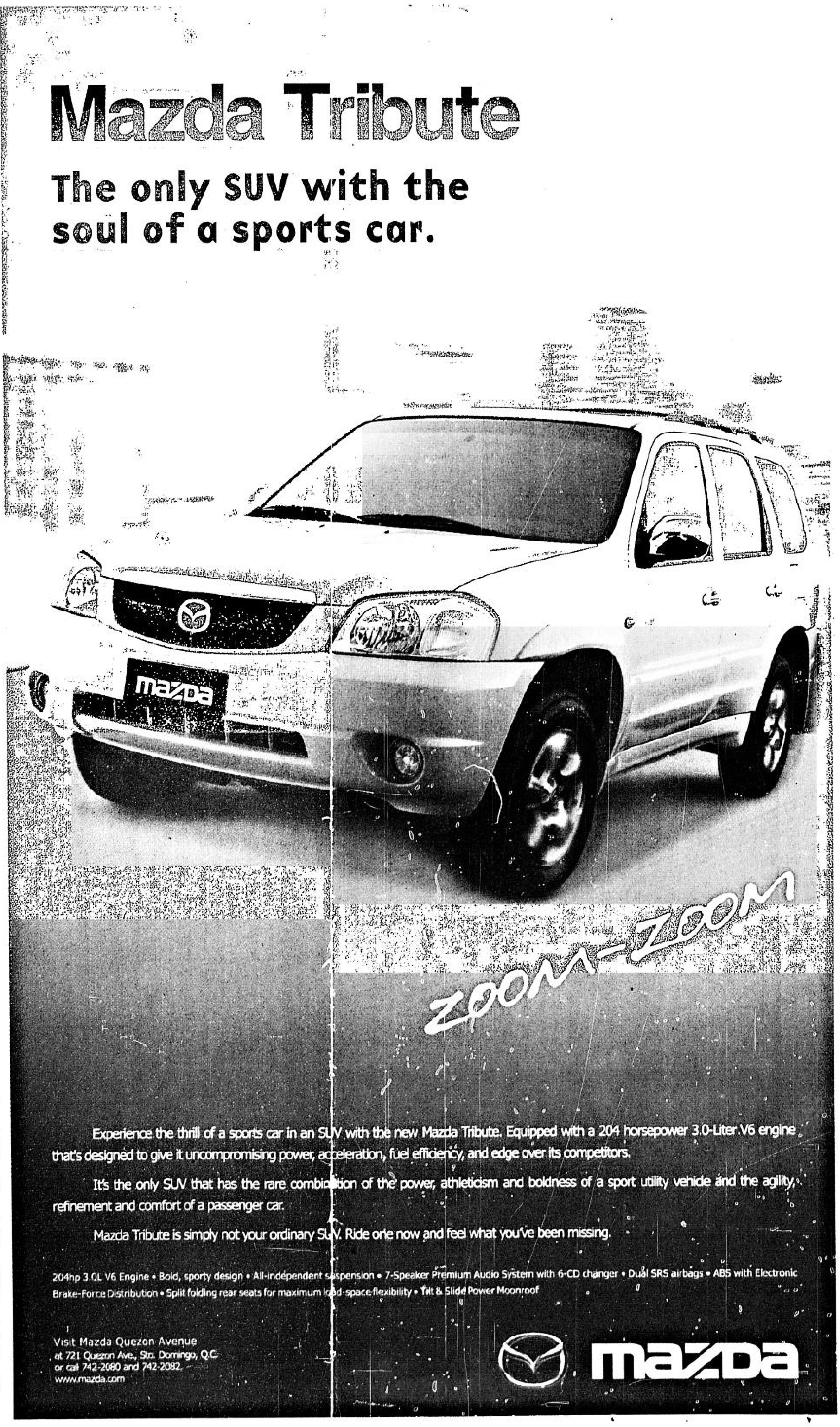

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7	I WILL SURVIVE
8	TROY
9	MY WIFE IS A GANGSTER
10	KIROT SA DIBDIB

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7	RESERVED
8	ANIMAL

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4	HELLBOY
5	VAN HELSING
6	TROY

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3	SCHOOL OF ROCK
4	TROY

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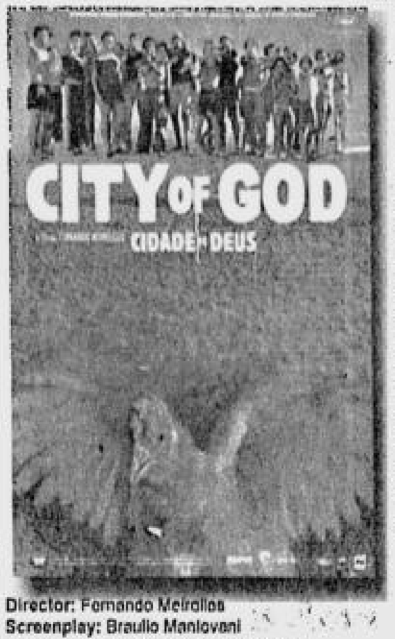

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CITY OF GOD

Based Upon The Portuguese-language novel, "Cidade de Deus", by Paulo Lins (which is reportedly semi-autobiographical).

Synopsis:

Cidade de Deus (City of God) is a housing project built in the 1960's that—in the early 80's--became one of the most dangerous place in Rio de Janeiro. The Tale tells the stories of many characters whose lives sometimes intersect. However, all is seen through the eyes of a singular narrator: Busca-Pe, a poor black youth too frail and scared to become an outlaw, but also too smart to be content with underpaid,menial jobs. He grows up in a very violent environment. The odds are all against him. But Busca-Pe soon discovers that he can see reality differently from others. His redemption is that he's been given an artist's point of view as a keen-eyed photographer. Nevertheless, not only his life is attached to what happ in the story, but it is also through Busca-Pe's perspective of life that one can understand the complicated layers and humanity of a world, apparently to endless violence.

Director: Fernando Meirelles
Screenplay: Braulio Mantovani
Cast: Matheus Nachtergaele, ALexandra Rodrigues, Leandro Fermino de Hora., Douglas Silva

Awards Received:
Santo Domingo International Film Festival Best Picture
Havana Film Festival Awardee
Best International Feature Fil (American Film Institute)

MTRCB Rating: R-18

"City of God' is a sleek, restless eye-catcher! It's Undeniably powerful. It pulses with atmosphere and vibrates with authencity."—Lisa Schwarzbaum, Entertainment Weekly

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7 (DTS)	VAN HELSING
8	RESERVE
9	RESERVE

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3 (DTS)	
4 (DOLBY)	
5	

Gotesco Ortigas
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3 (DTS)	
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5	

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3	TROY
4	RESERVE

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3	TROY
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3 (DOLBY)	TROY
4 (DTS)	TROY

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3 (DOLBY)	HOSTILE INTENT
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3 (DTS)	TROY

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3 (DTS)	TROY
4	HAUNTED SPIRIT

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2	I WILL SURVIVE
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1	TROY
2	I WILL SURVIVE
3	PAY CHECK

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2	CHECK INN
3	WHOLE 10 YARD
4 (DTS)	NAGHUHUMIYAW

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3	HOUSE OF THE DEAD

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2	WHOLE 10 YARD
3	TROY
4	STARSKY & HUTCH

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1	VAN HELSING	11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00	PG-13
2	TROY	11:40, 3:10, 6:40, 10:10	PG-13
3	TROY	12:20, 4:00, 11:00	PG-13
4	JERSEY GIRL	11:50, 2:25, 4:55	PG-13

VAN HELSING

Weekend Box Office

THIS WEEKEND Summer got off to a frightful start as Universal's monster mash Van Helsing debuted in theaters across much of the world and opened with a global gross of $105M, half of which came from North American moviegoers. On the other end of the spectrum, audiences ignored the new comedy New York Minute from the Olsen twins leaving it with an inauspicious fourth-place bow. Although the marketplace was up versus last weekend, overall sales were certainly not at one of the highest points of the year which usually is typical of the first weekend of May.

Fighting off all sorts of devilish ghouls, Tony nominee Hugh Jackman and Kate Beckinsale punched up the second biggest opening weekend of the year with Van Helsing which grossed $51.7M from theaters across the United States and Canada, according to final studio figures, to kick off the summer movie season. Playing in 3,575 theaters, the PG-13 title averaged a potent $14,475 per venue. Written and directed by Stephen Sommers, Van Helsing finds the Australian actor and British actress playing monster hunters who take on Count Dracula, the Wolf Man, and Frankenstein's monster in late-nineteenth century Transylvania. Only The Passion of the Christ delivered a more heavenly debut this year with its $83.8M three-day and $125.2M five-day bows.

Critics were mostly appalled by the $200M effects-heavy event film, but moviegoers paid no heed and lined up anyway. Reactions from the public have been generally positive with the average grade for the fright flick on Yahoo Movies being a decent B from more than 8,000 users. The monster pic's bow came in higher than 1999's The Mummy which also opened during the first weekend of May with $43.4M, but below the $68.1M launch of 2001's The Mummy Returns. Both of those Brendan Fraser blockbusters were helmed by Sommers and went on to become gigantic successes in the worldwide theatrical and video markets.

Overseas, Van Helsing opened in more than 40 markets and scored brawny number-one debuts in all territories leading to an international opening weekend estimate of $53M from 5,000 screens including grosses beginning on Wednesday where it opened in some countries. In most markets, the creature feature started off bigger than both Mummy pictures which each went on to collect over $400M worldwide. Notable openings included $9.7M from 460 theaters in the U.K., $7.6M from 735 in Germany, $5.1M from 460 in Spain, $4.1M from 632 in France, $3.6M from 226 in Australia, and $2.9M from 344 in Mexico. Van Helsing looks to topple the $200M global mark as early as next week.

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MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	KIROT SA DIBDIB
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	KIROT SA DIBDIB
B	CLOSED
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	STARSKY & HUTCH
CINEMA-2	KIROT SA DIBDIB
CINEMA-3	WHOLE 10 YARDS
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	CONFESSION OF DRAMA QUEEN
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	MAN ON FIRE
CINEMA-6	HELLBOY
CINEMA-7	SEX EDUCATION
CINEMA-8	ANIMAL
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	TROY
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TROY
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	JERSEY GIRL
CINEMA-12	MY WIFE IS A GANGSTER
CINEMA-14	VAN HELSING
CINEMA-15	I WILL SURVIVE
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
(LAS PINAS)	TROY
CINEMA-1	PAYCHECK
CINEMA-2	HELLBOY
CINEMA-4	STARSKY & HUTCH
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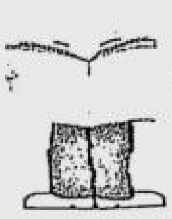

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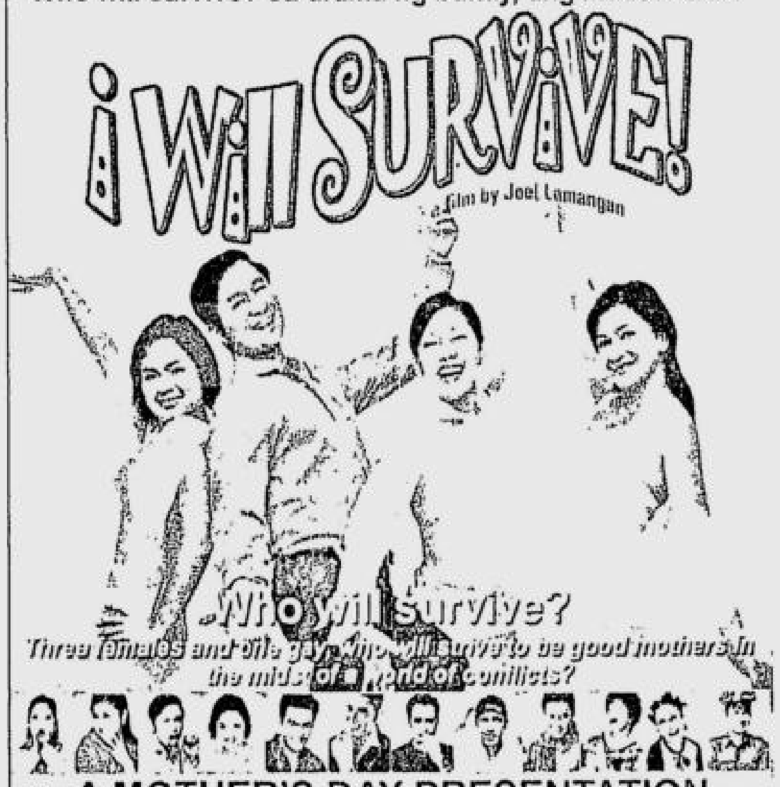
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CINEMA 2	TROY	11:30, 2:55, 6:20, 9:50	P13

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3	CITY OF GOD	11 20, 2 00, 4 40, 7 20, 10.00
4	MY WIFE IS A GANGSTER	11 55, 2 05 4 15 6 25 8 35, 10 30
5	TROY	
6	TROY	
7	STARSKY AND HUTCH	12 50, 3 05 5 20, 7.35, 9 50
8	I WILL SURVIVE	10.35, 12.50, 3 05, 5 20, 7:35, 9.50
9	JERSEY GIRL	10 20, 12.30, 2.50, 5.10, 7:30, 9:50
10	CONFESSIONS OF A TEENAGE DRAMA QUEEN	12 40 2 55 5 10, 7 25 9 40

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1	TROY	
2	I WILL SURVIVE	10 50, 1 00, 3 10, 5 20, 7.30 9 40
3	MY WIFE IS A GANGSTER	11 35, 1.45, 3 55, 6 05, 8 15, 10 00
4	JERSEY GIRL	10:10 12 25, 2 40, 4 55 7 10, 9 40
5	TROY	
6	CONFESSIONS OF A TEENAGE DRAMA QUEEN	11.15, 1.05, 2 55, 4.45, 6 35, 8:25, 10.00
7	MAN ON FIRE	10 40 1 25, 4 10, 6.55, 9 40

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1	CONFESSIONS OF A TEENAGE DRAMA QUEEN	11 00, 1 00, 3 00, 5 00, 7 00, 9 00
2	TROY	
3	TROY	
4	MY WIFE IS A GANGSTER	10 50, 12 50, 2 50, 4 50, 6 50, 8 50, 10 30
5	JERSEY GIRL	10 50, 12 50, 2 50, 4 50, 6 50, 8 50, 9.00
6	VAN HELSING	10 50, 12 50, 2 50, 4 50, 6 50, 8 50, 9.00
7	KIROT SA DIBDIB	11 00, 1 00, 3 00, 5 00, 7 00, 9.00
8	I WILL SURVIVE	12 30, 3 00, 5 30, 8 00, 10 30

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1	TROY	
2	CONFESSIONS OF A TEENAGE DRAMA QUEEN	10 25, 12 20, 2.15, 4 10, 6.05, 8 10
3	STARSKY AND HUTCH	11 30 1 45, 4 00, 6 15, 8.30
4	VAN HELSING	12 35, 3 20, 6 05, 8 45
5	JERSEY GIRL	11:[illegible], 1 35, 3 50, 6 05, 8 30
6	SCHOOL OF ROCK	2 00 2 00 4 00 6 00 8 10
7	TROY	
8	I WILL SURVIVE	11 45 1 55 4 05 6 15 8 3[illegible]

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2	TROY
3	VAN HELSING
4	JERSEY GIRL

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2	TROY
3	VAN HELSING
4	JERSEY GIRL

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3	I WILL SURVIVE
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5	TROY

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5	TROY
6 THX	TROY

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2	TROY
3	VAN HELSING
4	JERSEY GIRL
5	KIROT SA DIBDIB
6	I WILL SURVIVE

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5	HELLBOY
6	ACACIA

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3	HELLBOY
4	SEABISCUITS
5	ANIMAL
6	I WILL SURVIVE

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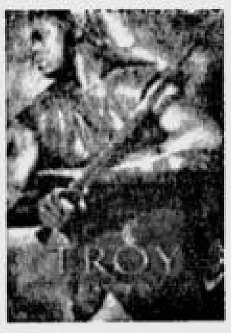

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ANNOUNCEMENT

ARNOLD R. CRUZ, whose last known address is Bustos, Bulacan is advised to coordinate with the DSWD Field Office 3, Tarlac City, Tel. No. (045)962-3195 regarding the adoption of a child he abandoned on July 20, 1992. Mr. & Mrs Antonio C. Bañaga are interested to adopt said child
(PDI-April 29, May 6 & 13, 2004)

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late ODILIA C. SONGCO was extrajudicially settled with waiver of share among her heirs as per Doc. No. 56, Page 13, Book No. 10, Series of 2004 under Notary Public Atty. Jimmy D. Laceral of Mandaluyong City (PDI-April 29, May 6 and 13, 2004)

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Wanted Sales Agent Male or Female For Calabarzon Area Tel 687-3544 • 724-7990

VICTORIAS
MILLING COMPANY, INC.

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

VICTORIAS MILLING COMPANY, INC., (VMC), Victorias City, Negros Occidental wishes to invite interested parties to pre-qualify and to bid for the **one (1) year security services for VMC** based on the following:

Pre-qualification requirements for bidders
- VMC accreditation requirements (Services)
- PADPAO membership
- License from PNP, SOSIA
- Track record with certification from client
- DOLE certification
- List of equipment with updated licenses for firearms and handheld radios
- List of quantity and type of office, and personal equipment of the guards
- Copy of organizational chart and list of key personnel with individual resume'
- List of pending labor cases against company, if any

Pre-qualification forms are available at the MCD Office, VMC Millsite and at the VMC Makati Procurement Office during office hours from May 14 to 21, 2004, upon payment of non-refundable fee of P500.00. Deadline for submission of pre-qualification papers is on **May 26, 2004.** The pre-bid conference for qualified bidders will be held on **May 28, 2004, 3:30 P.M.** at the **HRD Conference Room, VMC Millsite, Victorias City, Negros Occidental.** The bidding date will be announced thereafter. Sealed bids shall be accompanied by a bidder's bond equivalent to five percent (5%) of the bid price in the form of cashier's/manager's check payable to Victorias Milling Company, Inc.

For further inquiries, please contact **Messrs. Carlos S. Quiatchon, Dan C. Labrador, Ramon P. Pun-an or Edwin D. Togonon** at VMC Millsite at telephone numbers **(034) 399-3696 to 97, (034)399-3699** and (local) **2309**, and **Mr. Ping Abad** at VMC Makati Procurement Office at telephone numbers **(02)890-5256** and **(02)890-7062**. or visit our website www.victoriasmilling.com and e-mail us at mcd@victoriasmilling.com.

Victorias Milling Company, Inc., reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, to waive any required formality therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the Company. The Company assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidder/s for any expense/s or loss that they may incur in the preparation of the bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **TERESITA V. ILAGAN**
Chairperson, Senior Bidding Committee

(PDI – May 13, 2004)

DBP Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines is inviting interested suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for:

PROJECT	APPROVED BUDGET
Supply and Delivery of Manageable and Reliable Ethernet Switches for the Branches in support of the New Integrated Deposit Servicing System (NIDSS) Project	**P2,920,000.00**

Project Date Completion: July 30, 2004

Schedule of Activities:

Pre-Bidding Conference	**May 18, 2004 at 2:00 p.m., 6/F OPS Conference Room, DBP Head Office**
Submission and Opening of Eligibility Documents, Technical and Financial Proposals	**On or before May 31, 2004 at 10:00 a.m. 6/F OPS, DBP Head Office**

Application for eligibility check is open to all Information and Communication Technology (ICT) suppliers registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission/Department of Trade and Industry and has been in the supply, delivery and installation of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for at least three (3) years, must be at least 60% Filipino-owned (for partnership and corporations). Interested suppliers may secure the Eligibility Requirement Form from the Procurement Services Division, 6th floor, DBP Building, Makati City or you may download these forms at www.devbankphil.com.ph and at the Electronic Procurement Service of the Department of Budget and Management. Submission of the required eligibility documents, technical and financial proposals shall be made **on or before May 31, 2004 at 10:00 a.m., 6/F DBP Head Office.**

The Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act No. 9184 series of 2003 will be used in the conduct of this Bidding.

The Bank reserves the right to reject documents that do not comply with the requirements.

For further inquiries, please call Mr. Manuel A. Tagalo at telephone numbers 8129428/8151613.

Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI-May 6 & 13, 2004)

DBP Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines is inviting interested suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for:

PROJECT	APPROVED BUDGET
Supply and Delivery of Eight (8) units – TOYOTA COROLLA XL 1.3L with LPG Conversion Kit	**P5,000,000.00**

Project Date Completion: July 30, 2004

Schedule of Activities:

Pre-Bidding Conference	**May 18, 2004 at 2:00 p.m., 6/F OPS Conference Room, DBP Head Office**
Submission and Opening of Eligibility Documents, Technical and Financial Proposals	**On or before May 31, 2004 at 10:00 a.m. 6/F OPS, DBP Head Office**

Application for eligibility check is open to suppliers registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission/Department of Trade and Industry and has been a licensed **TOYOTA CAR DEALER** for at least three (3) years and must be at least 60% Filipino-owned (for partnership and corporations). Interested suppliers may secure the Eligibility Requirement Form from the Procurement Services Division, 6th floor, DBP Building, Makati City or you may download these forms at www.devbankphil.com.ph and at the Electronic Procurement Service of the Department of Budget and Management. Submission of the required eligibility documents, technical and financial proposals shall be made **on or before May 31, 2004 at 10:00 a.m., 6/F DBP Head Office.**

The Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act No. 9184 series of 2003 will be used in the conduct of this Bidding.

The Bank reserves the right to reject documents that do not comply with the requirements.

For further inquiries, please call Mr. Manuel A. Tagalo at telephone numbers 8129428/8151613.

Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI-May 6 & 13, 2004)

COMELEC HOTLINES

525-9345 • 525-9296 • 525-9295 • 525-9294
525-9301 • 525-9302 • 525-9334 • 525-9335

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

AD NO. MMD-TRANSCO 2004-026

Ref. No.: PB040423-PP0053
PR Nos.: TRMD-04-005694/GSD-04-005864

1. The **NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION, BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (TRANSCO - BAC) - HEAD OFFICE**, invites local bidders/contractors to apply for eligibility who are:
   a. Duly licensed Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships; or
   b. Partnerships duly organized under the laws of the Philippines and of which at least sixty percent (60%) of the interest belongs to citizens of the Philippines; or
   c. Corporations duly organized under the laws of the Philippines, and of which at least sixty percent (60%) of the outstanding capital stock belongs to citizens of the Philippines; or
   d. Manufacturers, suppliers and/or distributors forming themselves into a joint venture, i.e., group of two (2) or more manufacturers, suppliers and/or distributors that intend to be jointly and severally responsible or liable for a particular contract: Provided, however, that Filipino ownership or interest of the joint venture concerned shall be at least sixty percent (60%); or
   e. Cooperatives duly registered with the Cooperatives Development Authority (CDA).
1. Procurement of :
   SCHEDULE 1 : SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF ENGINEERING COPIER MACHINE, One Unit
   SCHEDULE 2 : TWO-YEAR RENTAL OF EIGHTEEN (18) UNITS OF COPYING MACHINES (Inclusive of eight (8) key operators and one (1) in-house technician)
2. The contract to be performed by the successful bidder shall be specified in the Technical Quotation Form of the Bid Documents to be issued.
3. The Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to be Bid is:
   SCHEDULE 1 : FOUR HUNDRED TWENTY FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (Php425,000.00)
   SCHEDULE 2 : FIVE MILLION EIGHT HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (Php5,800,000.00)
   to be sourced from the Internal Cash Generation of TransCo.
4. The Bid Documents will be available for issuance starting ***May 07, 2004 to June 05, 2004*** at The BAC Secretariat Office, National Transmission Corporation, Materials Management Division (MMD), Ground Floor, TransCo Main Bldg., Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City upon payment of non-refundable fee of **Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00)** per set.
5. Pre-Bid Conference will be held on ***May 26, 2004 at 2:00 p.m.*** at the Admin Conference Room, G/F, TransCo Main Bldg., Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City.
6. Deadline for submission, receipt and opening of bids shall be on or before ***2:00 p.m. of June 07, 2004*** at the Admin Conference Room, Ground Floor, TransCo Main Bldg., Power Center, Quezon Ave. corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City. If the date falls on a non-working day or declared non-working day, the deadline for submission shall be moved to the next working day immediately following said date. Late submission and/or incomplete bid documents shall not be accepted.
7. All particulars relatives to the eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids and award of contract shall be governed by the implementing Rules and Regulations-A of Republic Act 9184.
8. TransCo reserves the right to reject any Application for Eligibility or all bids without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.
9. Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communications should be addressed to the undersigned at the aforementioned address.

(Sgd.) **ANTONIO G. LABAYANI**
Chairman, Bids and Award Committee

(PDI - May 8 & 13, 2004)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Office of the President
Central Fund Management Office

ARMM SOCIAL FUND PROJECT

3rd Floor, VHW Building (Land Bank)
Veterans Avenue, Zamboanga City, Philippines
Tel. Nos. (62) 992-2684 to 86, 992-2705 to 08, 992-2679, 991-9366
Fax No. (62) 991-9410

May 11, 2004

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) CONSULTANCY FOR ARMM SOCIAL FUND (IBRD 7153 PH) FOR THE DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF

Barangay Development and Community Investment Planning through Participatory Resource Appraisal and Detailed Baseline Data Gathering.

1. The Government of the Philippines through the ARMM Social Fund (ASF) has availed of loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to payment under the contract for the provision of consultancy for the Training Program for the conduct of Barangay Development and Community Investment Planning through Participatory Resource Appraisal and detailed baseline data gathering for Community Development Assistance (CDA) component of the project.
2. The ARMM Social Fund (ASF) now invites eligible Firms/NGOs to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested Firms/NGOs must provide information that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc.)
3. Firms may submit an EOI for only one province and may choose from any of the following: Basilan, Tawi-Tawi, Sulu, Lanao del Sur (including Marawi City) and Maguindanao.
4. The Firm/NGO will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's "Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers" published by the Bank in January 1997, revised in September 1997, January 1999 and May 2002.
5. Expression of interest must be delivered to the address given above by no later than May 26, 2004.
6. Interested Firms/NGOs may obtain further information at the address given above from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM starting May 13, 2004.

(Sgd.) **NAZRULLAH B. MANZUR**
Executive Director

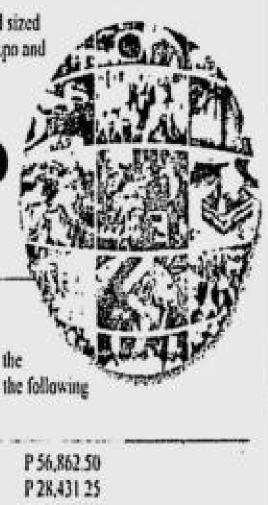
(PDI–May 13, 2004)

INQUIRER CLASSIFIEDS & WOFEX 2004 WORLD'S FOOD EXPO
August 4-7, 2004 World Trade Center, Philippines

Greetings from the INQUIRER Classifieds and WOFEX 2004!

The Philippine Daily Inquirer and World's Food Expo 2004 are working together to once again come out with a very special supplement that will feature products and services in the food and beverage industry.

This special pull-out section of the Philippine Daily Inquirer is a tabloid sized section (7 cols x 30 cm) and is dedicated to feature the World's Food Expo and the country's growing food industry.



WORLD'S FOOD EXPO SUPPLEMENT

This will definitely be the reference of choice.

The supplement is scheduled for release on August 4, 2004 in line with the opening of WOFEX 2004 In line with this, we are providing you with the following very special advertising rates :

FULL PAGE AD (23cm x 30cm) = P 56,862.50
HALF PAGE AD (23cm x 15cm) = P 28,431.25
QUARTER PAGE (11.5cm x 15cm) = P 15,620.00

- Full color advertising with NO color surcharge
- Reasonable ad rates in the most read broadsheet in the land
- A most cost efficient and effective advertising medium

ADVERTISING CONTRACT

Yes, we agree to place a ________ page ad in the World's Food Expo Supplement in the amount of P__________.00. We also agree to submit the ad material in TIF, EPS or JPEG format no later than July 5, 2004.

Name ________________ Company ________________
Position ____________ Address ________________
Tel. No. ____________ Fax No. ____________
Email ______________ Website ______________ Signature ______________

CONTACT INFORMATION

Premier Events Plus Group, Inc.
Telefax: (632) 4364209, 4364898, 4269603, 9297993, 9297963
Email : info@pepgroup.com Website: www.pepgroup.com

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Thailand Campus

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giathai@ksc15.th.com www.giathailand.com

PAMBANSANG PANGASIWAAN SA PAGKAIN
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY

MATIMYAS BLDG., 101 E. RODRIGUEZ SR. AVE., QUEZON CITY
TEL. NO.: (632) 717-3341 TO 54 FAX NO. (632) 712-1110 E-Mail www.nfa.gov.ph

ANNOUNCEMENT OF BIDDING

The National Food Authority (NFA) wishes to announce that it will be conducting a bidding on June 03, 2004 at 10:00 AM at the NFA Boardroom, 10th Floor, Matimyas Bldg., 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City among all interested corn suppliers for the supply of maximum THREE HUNDRED FORTY THOUSAND METRIC TONS (340,000 MT), with an appropriated budget from NFA's corporate resources of THREE BILLION EIGHT HUNDRED MILLION PESOS (Php 3.8 BILLION), Yellow Corn equivalent to US Grade No. 3 or better, US, ARGENTINA, INDIA, VIETNAM, THAILAND, CHINA and/or INDONESIA Origin, in bulk or in bags, which should arrive at designated Philippine port within June 2004.

Minimum volume to be offered per supplier shall be 10,000 MT. All interested corn suppliers are required to submit price offers in US PMT, CFR, FO, 1 safe port, 1-2 safe berths, basis, documents against payment (D/P), otherwise, bids shall be considered non-responsive.

All bidders are required to post a bid bond equivalent to 5% of the value offered in the form of Cashier's and/or Manager's Check issued by a reputable bank in Metro Manila or an irrevocable stand-by L/C issued by a reputable commercial bank or in the case of an irrevocable stand-by L/C issued by a foreign bank, the same shall be confirmed by a reputable local bank.

Winning bidders are required to submit a performance bond equivalent to 5% of the value of the awarded quantity within three (3) banking days after receipt of the Notice of Award in the form of Cashier's and/or Manager's Check issued by a reputable bank in Metro Manila or an irrevocable stand-by L/C issued by a foreign bank, the same shall be confirmed by a reputable local bank. Bid bond can be converted to Performance Bond.

List of Eligibility Requirements, Terms of Reference and Instruction to Bidders may be secured from the BAC Supplemental Secretariat, 5th Flr., NFA Matimyas Bldg., 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave., Quezon City starting May 14, 2004.

The Terms of Reference (TOR) and Bid Documents will likewise be available starting May 14 up to May 28, 2004 (8:00 AM-5:00 PM) upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php5,000.00.

The **Pre-Bidding** conference will be held on **May 21, 2004, at 10:00 AM** at the NFA boardroom, 10th Floor, Matimyas Bldg., 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City.

Submission of Eligibility requirements, technical proposal and price offers will be between 8:00 AM to 9:55 AM at the NFA Boardroom, 10th Floor, Matimyas Bldg., 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City on **June 03, 2004. Opening of bids** will start at exactly **10:00 AM.**

Suppliers who where issued a Certificate of Registration (COR) as NFA Corn Supplier in 2004 and have complied with the eligibility requirements during the April 02, 2004 corn bidding are automatically eligible to join the bidding. They shall be issued a Certificate of Eligibility (COE) by the NFA-BAC which shall be entered in the Eligibility Envelope.

The National Food Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals, to waive any required formality or defect therein and may accept the bid/s which is deemed most advantageous to the Agency.

(Sgd.) **GREGORIO Y. TAN, JR.**
Deputy Administrator
and Chairman, BAC

(PDI–May 13 & 20, 2004)

PASEGURUHAN NG MGA NAGLILINGKOD SA PAMAHALAAN
(GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM)
Financial Center, Pasay City, Metro Manila 1308

PHYSICAL RESOURCES BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

NOTICE OF INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM** invites all interested proponents to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following projects/items:

Project/Item	Approved Budget for the Contract
Lot 1 – Provision of Security and Protection Services for the GSIS Headquarters Building, Financial Center, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City	P 21,168,000.00
Lot 2 – Provision of Security and Protection Services for the GSIS Former Offices and District Offices	P 10,584,000.00

Interested proponents must submit a letter of intent and the basic eligibility requirements to the Chairperson, Physical Resources Bids and Awards Committee (PRBAC) c/o PRBAC Secretariat, Materials Management Department (MMD), Level 1, Core B, GSIS Financial Center, Pasay City starting May 6, 2004 to May 17, 2004 from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM. After the said date, no application for registration will be entertained.

Basic Eligibility Requirements to be submitted:

1. DTI/SEC Registration Certificate, Articles of Incorporation and latest amendments, if any
2. Current Mayor's Permit/Municipal License/Certificate
3. TIN Certificate of Registration
4. Sworn statement that the company is not "blacklisted" or barred from bidding by any government agency, office or corporation and that the company is in operation for at least the last three (3) years.

Bid documents shall be issued only to registered proponents who will be notified in writing by the PRBAC upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P5,000.00 per bid document. The time for issuance of bid documents shall be during office hours from 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

A pre-bid conference will be held at 10:00 AM on May 18, 2004 at the PRS Lounge, Level 1, Core B, GSIS Building.

The submission and opening of sealed bids shall be on June 1, 2004, 9:00 AM, PRS Lounge, Level 1, Core B, GSIS Building, Pasay City. The bidding will be pursued in accordance with RA 9184 Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) and other applicable rules and laws.

The GSIS/PRBAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect(s) of formality on the bids received and accept the bid deemed most advantageous to the System, but does not guarantee that any award shall be made. Its decision shall be final and binding.

(Sgd.) **JOY C. LEGASPI**
Chairperson

(PDI–May 6 & 13, 2004)

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

AD NO. MMD-TRANSCO 2004-030

Ref No.: PB040423-PP0054
PR Nos.: TTSD-04-006199/TTSD-04-006219/NLTLP-99-004677

1. The **NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION, BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (TRANSCO – BAC) – HEAD OFFICE**, invites local bidders/contractors to apply for eligibility who are:
   a. Duly licensed Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships; or
   b. Partnerships duly organized under the laws of the Philippines and of which at least sixty percent (60%) of the interest belongs to citizens of the Philippines; or
   c. Corporations duly organized under the laws of the Philippines, and of which at least sixty percent (60%) of the outstanding capital stock belongs to citizens of the Philippines; or
   d. Manufacturers, suppliers and/or distributors forming themselves into a joint venture, i.e., group of two (2) or more manufacturers, suppliers and/or distributors that intend to be jointly and severally responsible or liable for a particular contract: Provided, however, that Filipino ownership or interest of the joint venture concerned shall be at least sixty percent (60%); or
   e. Cooperatives duly registered with the Cooperatives Development Authority (CDA).
2. Procurement of :
   SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF THE FOLLOWING:
   SCHEDULE 1 : DIGITAL POWER LINE CARRIER, With Integrated Protection Signalling Equipment, Cabinet, Accessories, Element Manager Terminal and Operations and Maintenance Training, 1 Lot
   SCHEDULE 2 : PROTECTION SIGNALLING EQUIPMENT (PSE), 10 SETS, WITH OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE TRAINING; Complete with all necessary interface cables, Software and Manuals (Installation, Operation and Maintenance)
3. The contract to be performed by the successful bidder shall be specified in the Technical Quotation Form of the Bid Documents to be issued.
4. The Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to be Bid is:
   SCHEDULE 1 : TEN MILLION PESOS (Php10,000,000.00)
   SCHEDULE 2 : FIVE MILLION PESOS (Php5,000,000.00)
   to be sourced from the Internal Cash Generation of TransCo.
5. The Bid Documents will be available for issuance starting ***May 08, 2004 to June 07, 2004*** at The BAC Secretariat Office, National Transmission Corporation, Materials Management Division (MMD), Ground Floor, TransCo Main Bldg., Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City upon payment of non-refundable fee of **Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00)** per set.
6. Pre-Bid Conference will be held on ***May 27, 2004 at 10:00 a.m.*** at the Admin Conference Room, G/F, TransCo Main Bldg., Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City.
7. Deadline for submission, receipt and opening of bids shall be on or before ***10:00 a.m. of June 08, 2004*** at the Admin Conference Room, Ground Floor, TransCo Main Bldg., Power Center, Quezon Ave. corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City. If the date falls on a non-working day or declared non-working day, the deadline for submission shall be moved to the next working day immediately following said date. Late submission and/or incomplete bid documents shall not be accepted.
8. All particulars relative to the eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids and award of contract shall be governed by the Implementing Rules and Regulations-A of Republic Act 9184.
9. TransCo reserves the right to reject any Application for Eligibility or all bids without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.
10. Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communications should be addressed to the undersigned at the aforementioned address.

(Sgd.) **ANTONIO G. LABAYANI**
Chairman, Bids and Award Committee

(PDI - May 13 & 19, 2004)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE
Bids and Awards Committee for
Information Technology (BAC-IT)
Quezon City

May 4, 2004

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for:

Name of Project	:	**PROCUREMENT OF SEVEN HUNDRED (700) MICROCOMPUTERS**
Location of the Project	:	**Bureau of Internal Revenue**
Contract Duration	:	**Thirty (30) calendar days from receipt of Notice of Award**
Approved Budget	:	**P42,000,000.00**
Source of Funding	:	**e-Government Fund**

All interested parties may obtain the bidding documents from the BAC-IT Secretariat, c/o Room 605, 6/F, BIR-National Office Bldg., BIR Road, Brgy. Piñahan, Diliman, Quezon City starting **May 6, 2004**, upon payment of non-refundable fee of P8,400.00.

Pre-Bid Conference will be held on **May 20, 2004** at **2:00 p.m.** at the **Executive Conference Room**, 3/F BIR-National Office Building, BIR Road, Brgy. Piñahan, Diliman, Quezon City.

Deadline for the submission of eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals shall be on **June 4, 2004, Friday at 1:30 p.m.**, to be held at the **Executive Conference Room**, 3/F BIR-National Office Building, BIR Road, Brgy. Piñahan, Diliman, Quezon City to be followed by the opening of the bids.

All particulars relative to eligibility process, bidding, evaluation of bids, post-qualification and award of contract shall be governed by the applicable provisions of Republic Act No. 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act and its implementing ruels and regulations.

The BIR assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any excuse or loss that they may incur in the preparation of their bids. The BIR also reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any of the required formality therein and accept the bids most advantageous to the government.

For particulars, please inquire from the BAC-IT Secretariat, thru the Chief, SSTMD-IPQS at Room 302, 3/F, Revenue Computer Center (RCC) Bldg., BIR Compound, BIR Road, Brgy. Piñahan, Diliman, Quezon City or call telephone nos. 981-7085, 927-4101 (telefax), 981-7079 and 981-7080 or e-mail us at lilibeth.maranan@bir.gov.ph.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. LEONOR S. VILLALON-ROGERS**
Assistant Commissioner - HRDS
Chairman, BAC-IT

(PDI - May 6 & 13, 2004)

DAR

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM

03 May 2004

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bidding and Awards Committee of the Department of Agrarian Reform is inviting all interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for its security and janitorial services.

Instruction to Bidders can be secured starting **May 12, 2004**, from the Office of the Chief, General Services Division, located at the basement, DAR Main Building, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City, upon payment of the non-refundable fee of Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00).

Interested bidders must submit the required documents and statements for eligibility not later than 9:00 o'clock in the morning of **May 31, 2004** at the HRD Training Center, DAR Compound, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

Terms, conditions and specifications will be discussed during the pre-bidding conference on **May 17, 2004** at 10:00 o'clock in the morning at H.R.D. Training Center.

The BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any formality and award the contract to any bidder whose proposal is the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bid.

DAR also assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidder for any expense or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of the bids, nor does it guarantee that any award will be made.

(Sgd.) **TEDDIE ELSON E. RIVERA**
Undersecretary
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - May 7 & 13, 2004)

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I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies, and whoever believes in Me will never die.
John 11:25-26

Lovingly Remembered and Sadly Missed
On His First Death Anniversary

Our Beloved

JOSEPH ERIC VERNON LEYRAN MEIM

Quezon City, June 20, 1966 - London, May 13, 2003

His loving parents **BGen Eustaquio** (†) and **Leticia**; his brothers & sisters **Fr. Daniel Dennis SDB**, **Maria Linda**, **John Nelson**, **Gina Liza**, and **Paul Niño**; brothers-in-law, **PS Supt. Leopoldo N. Bataoil** and **Gordon Springer**; sister-in-law **Mary Rose Tanalgo**; nieces, **Carmela** and **Angela Bataoil**; request relatives and friends to remember him in their prayers and to join in the celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass on Thursday, May 13, 2004, 3:30 p.m. at the Meim-Leyran Mausoleum, Plaza of Honor, Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City.

On the occasion of Eric's first death anniversary, the first scholar of the DLSU-Joseph Eric Vernon Leyran Meim Scholarship for Electronics Communication Engineering will be introduced. Donations to the scholarship may be addressed to DLSU Science Foundation Inc. - Eric Meim Scholarship Fund for ECE.

In Loving Memory
2nd Death Anniversary

Arch. Antonio "Tony" Q. Martinez

of Quezon City
(July 4, 1931 - May 13, 2002)

Holy Masses for his eternal repose will be offered at the following churches, today, May 13, 2004

St. Joseph the Worker, Baguio City .... 6:15 a.m.
St. Paul the Apostle, Mo. Ignacia, Q.C. ...... 6:00 p.m.

We, the members of Tony's family, request all his loved ones, relatives, friends and pious readers to join us in prayers for him.

CARL "BILL" A. PETERSON, JR.

Son of Carl Sr. and Elena Alinea Peterson

Peacefully joined our Lord
on May 11, 2004 at the age of 49.

His family requests fervent prayers and special petitions for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Park, Chapel II, Marikina City.

Interment is to be announced later.

"And ... I will dwell in the House of the Lord ... FOREVER!" Psalms 23

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❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

• DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS
• DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS

"What through the radiance which was once so bright; be now for ever taken from my sight, though nothing can bring back the hour of splendour in the grass, of glory in the flower, we will grieve not, rather find strength in what remains behind." Wordsworth

PROF. AGUSTIN "CAI" ALMARIO CAILAO

May 20, 1920 – May 11, 2004
Peacefully joined our Lord on May 11, 2004 at the age of 83.

His loving wife **Andrea**; children **Eddie** and **Regi**, **Letty**, **Tony** and **Bing**, **Rox** and **Ruby**, **Bambi** and Ed, **Andy** (†), **Luchie** and **Nani**; grandchildren **Marco** and **Jen**, **Boying** and **Trixie**, **Speedy** (†), **Marvin**, **Mia** and **Toby**, **Champy**, **Liv**, **Berto**, **Katrina**, **Aidee**, **Carlos**, **Chowie**, **Dino** and **Kaye**, **Anna**, **Alex**, **Maxinne**, **Gabby**, **Oliver**, **Mica**, **Dannii** and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His cremated remains shall be at the Gumersindo Garcia Hall right beside the UP Protestant Chapel, UP Campus. Masses at 7 PM on Thursday at the Gumersindo Garcia Hall and 10 AM, Friday at the UP Catholic Chapel.

THE CONGREGATION OF THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY (CICM)

requests your prayers for

REV. FR. GERARD DE BOECK, CICM

born in Steenhuffel, Brabant, Belgium on March 24, 1916,
he died in Baguio City on May 11, 2004,
at the age of 88.

He served as Mission Rector in Lagawe and Balatoc-Virac, as Rector of St. Louis School in Lagawe (Ifugao), as President of St. Louis College, San Fernando, (La Union) and as Chaplain of SLU Hospital (Baguio). He was chaplain of the Charismatic Movement from 1994 until the time of his death.

His remains lie in state at the Home Sweet Home Chapel in Baguio City until May 17, 2004.

Interment will be on May 17, 2004 (Monday), at the CICM Cemetery after the 10:00 a.m. Mass of the Resurrection at Maryhurst Seminary, Baguio City.

PLEASE PRAY TO THE LORD FOR HIS ETERNAL REPOSE.

"For God so loved the World, that He gave us His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have Everlasting life."
—John 3:16

Thou we miss you very much
We know you are always there
Whenever we need you...

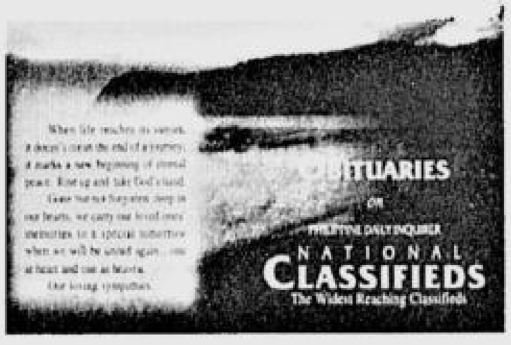
In Loving Memory

On the 14th Death Anniversary
of our dear, so very dear

PAUL W. LUTHI

from Langnau (Switzerland) and Manila
who joined his Creator
on May 13, 1990

"Eternal life will swallow up that which can die. God made us for this very reason and He has given us the Spirit as a [illegible] that we will live again."
2 Co[illegible]



For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

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Telefax 724-4139; 725-2044

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The Citi fits in your palm

THE CREDIT card takes a new shape, or rather size, with the launching of the Citibank Clear Visa Mini.

At only 40 mm x 66 mm in size, it is 43 percent smaller than regular-sized cards and fits snugly in the palm of your hand, not to mention in many other places. A perforated hole in the bottom left corner also allows cardholders to attach the card to their key chain, mobile phone or other carry-along device.

Citibank unveiled this revolutionary product that will surely redefine the credit card landscape with a fashion show featuring designs by Kate Torralba.

The upcoming designer made liberal use of the Citibank Clear Visa Mini to accessorize her young, colorful creations-as belts, accents to bags, hemlines, even to halter-tops.

Kate, joined by top model Raya Mananquil, were also introduced to the public as publicity endorsers of the new product, joining the ranks of other successful personalities from various fields including television, fashion and show business who are avowed Citibank cardmembers.

Kate and Raya are two of today's highly successful and prominent young celebrities who are modern, stylish and up-to-date on the latest trends. Chatting with the guests, the two said they liked the many features that the Citibank Clear Visa Mini offers and attest to its innovativeness and sophistication.

With her height, striking looks and lithe frame, Raya has graced the covers and pages of countless magazines. The country's representative to the recent Miss Elite Model competition, she lives a hectic life, gracing fashion shows and attending photo shoots both locally and abroad. She considers the Citibank Clear Visa Mini a godsend.

"I like its size a lot," says Raya. "It fits nicely wherever I decide to put it, plus it comes in a chic, translucent design so it matches my wardrobe as well. I also like the fact that the Citibank Clear Visa Mini is accepted worldwide so I can take it with me wherever I go. And it offers a generous credit limit so I can confidently shop for my favorite items."

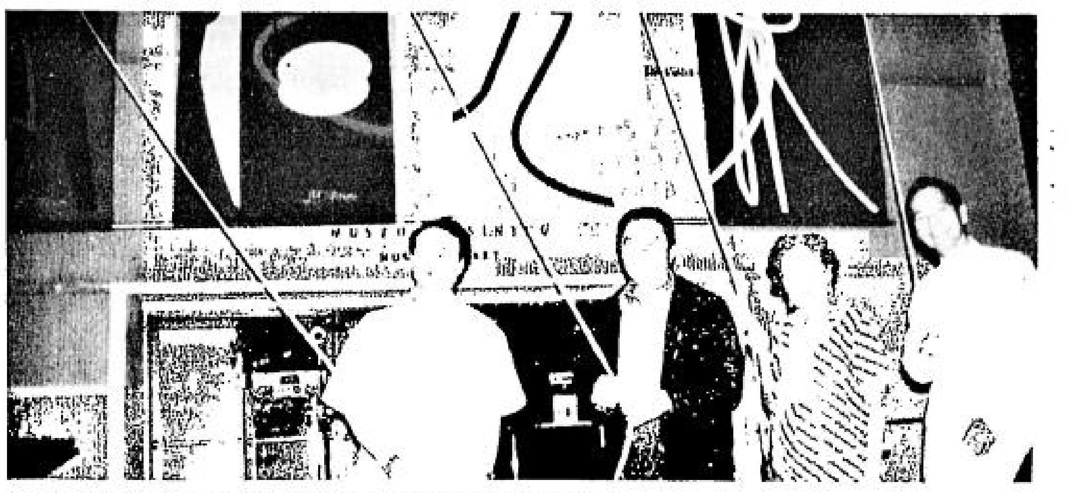
Like Raya, Kate also has a mobile lifestyle. A talented fashion designer who has reaped accolades as one of the designers to keep an eye on, Kate is always busy creating fashionable clothes for society's "it" crowd.

When she's not designing great-looking clothes, Kate frequents restaurants and bars with her friends along with her Citibank Clear Visa Mini-her handy companion.

"I'm glad that Citibank has come up with such an innovative product," says Kate. "It really complements my needs and lifestyle because with the Citibank Clear Visa Mini, I get to enjoy considerable discounts and freebies at some of the coolest places in town. Of course, the size of the card is a bonus because I can easily attach it anywhere, whether to my key chain or cell phone. It's really cool!"

The Citibank Clear Visa Mini will be issued as a companion card to a regular size card, giving the cardholder the option of carrying the latter should they prefer. Due to its innovative size, the Citibank Clear Visa Mini can be used at most point-of-sale terminals with swipe readers where Visa is accepted. For traditional acceptance points such as automated teller machines and terminals with deep, magnetic stripe readers and manual card imprints, cardholders will need to use the regular-sized Citibank Clear Visa.

Raya and Kate best exemplify the market of the Citibank Clear Visa Mini. Both agree that the card answers their expectations and demands for increased convenience and mobility in their everyday lives.



DATUIN'S 'PILLARS OF PEACE' UNVEILED

Contemporary abstract expressionist Joe Datuin (right) recently unveiled his monumental 'Pillars of Peace' paintings at the opening of his 8th one-man show titled 'Line Links' at the GSIS Museo ng Sining, CCP Complex, Pasay City March 8. Present as guests of honor were (from left) researcher Ben-Oliver Matias of the National Museum, MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando, and former Senator Leticia Ramos-Shahani. The quadrutich artwork symbolizes Datuin's advocacy for peace. The exhibit ran until March 31. For more about Datuin's exhibit, call 920-7765 or 0917-6157302 or the GSIS Museo ng Sining at 551-1301.

ITC offers diploma program in Cosmetology

REGISTRATION for the Diploma Program in Cosmetology is now ongoing at the ICI Training Center (ITC) in Makati.

Founded by Innovations and Concepts Inc (ICI), the same company that owns the leading French salon enterprise Franck Provost Paris, ITC aims to provide a venue for learning progressive alternative skills in the field of service (cosmetology, domestic training).

Its initial course offering is the 6-month diploma program on cosmetology, where students will learn the professional skills and proper values needed to succeed in the salon industry.

Scholarships are available for qualified applicants.

For more details, call within office hours (Mondays to Fridays, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.) at 897-0383, 897-0307, or 895-3401 to 03 extension 113 and look for Fiorelle Nolasco.

Bits Clips

Mother's Day at Robbinsdale

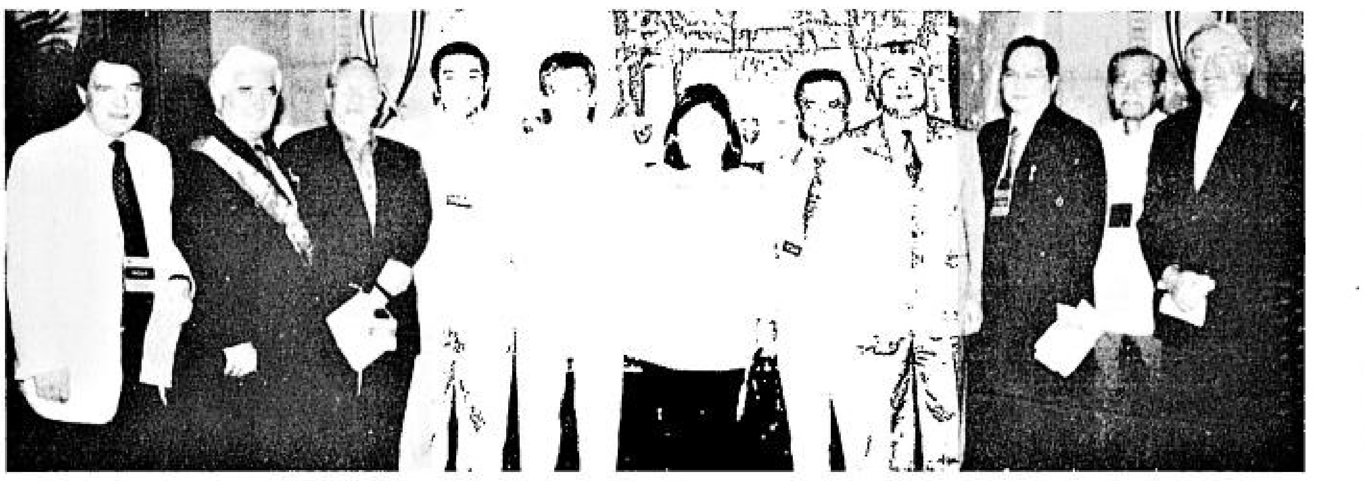
ROBBINSDALE Hotel in Araneta Avenue corner Palanza Street in Quezon City pays tribute to all mothers with a 2-week long celebration ongoing until May 25. Give your mom a break and treat her to a hearty meal at Robbinsdale Hotel's Coffee Shop. You have a choice of special set meals ranging from P150 to P500. And for every P500 bill, mom will receive a special gift from Robbinsdale Hotel. Robbinsdale Hotel is a marketing affiliate of Genesis Hotels and Resorts Corp. For reservations and inquiries, call 716-1262 or check out www.genesishotels.com.

Accounting for non-accountants

THIS is especially designed for non-accounting managers, supervisors and personnel. Whether you like it or not, you have to work with some issues in basic accounting. Topics include the accounting cycle, adjusting journal entries, financial statements like balance sheet and income statements, the cash flow statement and financial statements. This program is slated on Friday, May 14, 1 to 5 p.m. at Traders Hotel, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City (near Vito Cruz). The workshop will have as its resource lecturer Cecile Catahan, Cum Laude, CPA and a bank chief accountant. This seminar is sponsored by Porter and Miles Inc, a premier training company on business, management, marketing, sales and human resource development. Call Mercy at 638-7719/20 for more information.

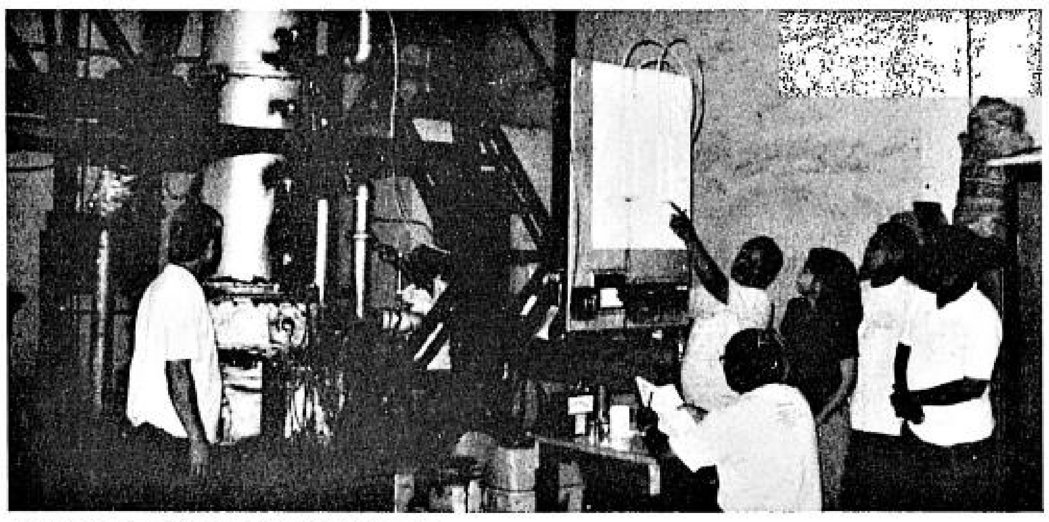
CBM2004 all set

PREPARATIONS are in full swing for the Cebu Business Month 2004 (CBM2004) organized by the Cebu Chamber of Commerce & Industry. Registration to all the sports activities is ongoing. Enthusiasts and professionals are all invited to participate in events such as the 1st Cebu Pacific National Canoe-kayak Race on May 14 and 15 at the Vistamar Beach Resort. Happening on the same days also is the Beach Volleyball Competition. On May 22 and 23 is the Multicab and Motorcycle Drag Race and Trans Show slated at the South Reclamation Project (SRP). The last weekend of May (May 28 to 30) will showcase the 1st Summit Natural Water Badminton Tournament at the Courtyard. Over P1 million in prizes are at stake. For more details, call Lolong Velasquez at Habagat at 412-2310, or e-mail summit01@nxdsl.com.ph.



RCM LAUNCHES 2003 JOURNALISM AWARDS

The Rotary Club of Manila (RCM) launched its annual Journalism Awards in March with guest speaker Jessica Soho, a Hall of Fame Awardee of the Journalism Awards herself. It was held at the Quezon Ballroom of the Shangri-La Manila. RCM organized the Journalism Awards in 1966 to honor outstanding contributions of individuals in the tri-media: print, television and radio. The awards sought to encourage excellence in Philippine journalism by giving recognition to journalists and media agencies that performed outstandingly. Shown are (from left), Rtn Wolf Krocker, SAA Gunter Matschuck, Rtn Jess Santos, PP Archit Bartolome III, Rotary president Boy Ampil, Jessica Soho, Journalism Awards chair Rtn Tomas Banguis, director Beda Fajardo, Pat Bernard Yu, PD Ralf Gonzales, and PD Gert Gust. For more information, call the secretariat at 527-1887, 527-1889, 527-5295, or e-mail rcm@itextron.com.



1ST IN RP, 1ST IN THE WORLD

Award-winning inventors led by engineer Delfin Pugal of DOST-Industrial Technology Development Institute (standing 4th from right) have proven the Filipino ingenuity to produce high-quality activated carbon with iodine value ranges 800 to 1000. The carbonization-activation technology is currently field testing at Barangay Bebito, Lopez, Quezon and is managed by DOST-Philippine Council for Industry and Energy Research and Development and in cooperation with Growlandtech Corp. Growlandtech general manager Sid Valencia (standing left) considered the modern processing plant as an income-generating project for the people of Quezon Province, and a dollar-earner for the Philippines.

ProductFILES

Going about things Her Way

IN THIS fast-paced, ultra-modern, active world, a lot is expected of a woman. Aside from being feminine, there are other demands from family and work. A woman has to remain wholesome and active to be able to fulfill all her duties inside and outside the home, without losing her cool. She needs to always feel comfortable in all her endeavors. Whatever the situation is, she has to keep her composure, to think clearly, and take appropriate action.

Hanes is acknowledged as America's No. 1 undergarment brand, makers of the most comfortable apparel products. From this comes a fragrance that's just as relaxed and casual as the clothing. Hanes Her Way is a light and crisp fruity fragrance that creates a sense of comfort for every woman who wears it.

Hanes Her Way Body Mist is perfect for every woman who goes about her day in the thick of the action-wherever she may be. This wholesome scent allows a woman to spray on the scent any time of the day.

The Hanes Her Way fragrance is available at Sara Lee Direct Selling Philippines (formerly known as House of Sara Lee) and authorized Sara Lee dealers nationwide. For inquiries, call hotline 810-5402, or e-mail: customer.rélations@saraleedirectselling.ph.

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PHILIPPINE NATIONAL BANK

NOTICE OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of the Philippine National Bank will be held on May 25, 2004 at 8:00 a.m. at the Ballroom, Upper Lobby, Century Park Hotel, 599 Pablo Ocampo Sr. St., Malate, Manila.

The Agenda for the meeting is as follows:

1. Call to Order
2. Secretary's Proof of Notice and Quorum
3. Approval of the Minutes of the 2003 Annual Stockholders' Meeting held on May 27, 2003
4. Report of the President on the Results of Operations for the Year 2003
5. Approval of the 2003 Annual Report
6. Ratification of All Acts and Proceedings of the Board of Directors and Corporate Officers since the 2003 Annual Stockholders' Meeting
7. Election of Directors
8. Appointment of External Auditor
9. Other Matters
10. Adjournment

Minutes of the 2003 Annual Stockholders' Meeting as well as resolutions of the Board of Directors from May 27, 2003 will be available for examination during office hours at the Office of the Corporate Secretary.

Only stockholders of record as of April 26, 2004 will be entitled to notice of and vote at this meeting. Registration will begin at 6:00 a.m.

If you cannot personally attend the meeting, you may designate your authorized representative by submitting a **PROXY** to the Office of the Corporate Secretary not later than 5:00 p.m. on May 19, 2004. Any proxies so received will be validated on May 20, 2004, 9:30 a.m., at the Office of the Stock Transfer Agent at Allied Bank Center, 6754 Ayala Avenue, Makati City.

Pasay City, March 5, 2004

RENATO J. FERNANDEZ
Corporate Secretary

Agri sector rose 4% in Q1, Lorenzo says

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE DEPARTMENT of Agriculture estimated that the agriculture sector grew by more than 4 percent in the first three months of the year.

Initial data from the Bureau of Agricultural Statistics (BAS) showed that agriculture output from the grains sector—rice and corn—exceeded expectations and average yields reached a high of 2-3.43 million metric tons in the first quarter.

"My fearless forecast is that (we hit) over 4 percent in the first quarter. But we are still waiting for the results from the livestock and poultry sectors," Agriculture Secretary Luis P. Lorenzo Jr. said in a phone interview yesterday.

The grains sector plus sugar account for about half of the total agriculture output.

BAS data showed that production of palay (unmilled rice) reached 3.43 million metric tons in the first three months, 13.1 percent more than the 3.03 million metric tons produced in the same period last year.

Corn output, on the other hand, was expected to have risen by 13.4 percent to 1.53 million metric tons.

He said the increased production from the grains sector could be attributed to the agency's intensified campaign to get farmers to use hybrid rice and corn seeds and apply advanced production techniques.

The performance of the agriculture sector is closely watched by economists as it makes up about a fifth of the country's total economic output.

With the robust growth in the first quarter, the DA was optimistic that production in the first half would grow by at least 3.5 percent.

On the other hand, University of Asia and the Pacific (UA&P) professor and economist Rolando Dy said that production could even increase by 4 percent even with a dry spell.

"The agriculture sector performed better than expected and though fertilizers are priced higher in the last nine months, the DA has made a good job in contributing to scale this down," he noted.

Dy told the INQUIRER that the growth seen in the crops sector could offset a drop in production in the livestock and poultry sectors.

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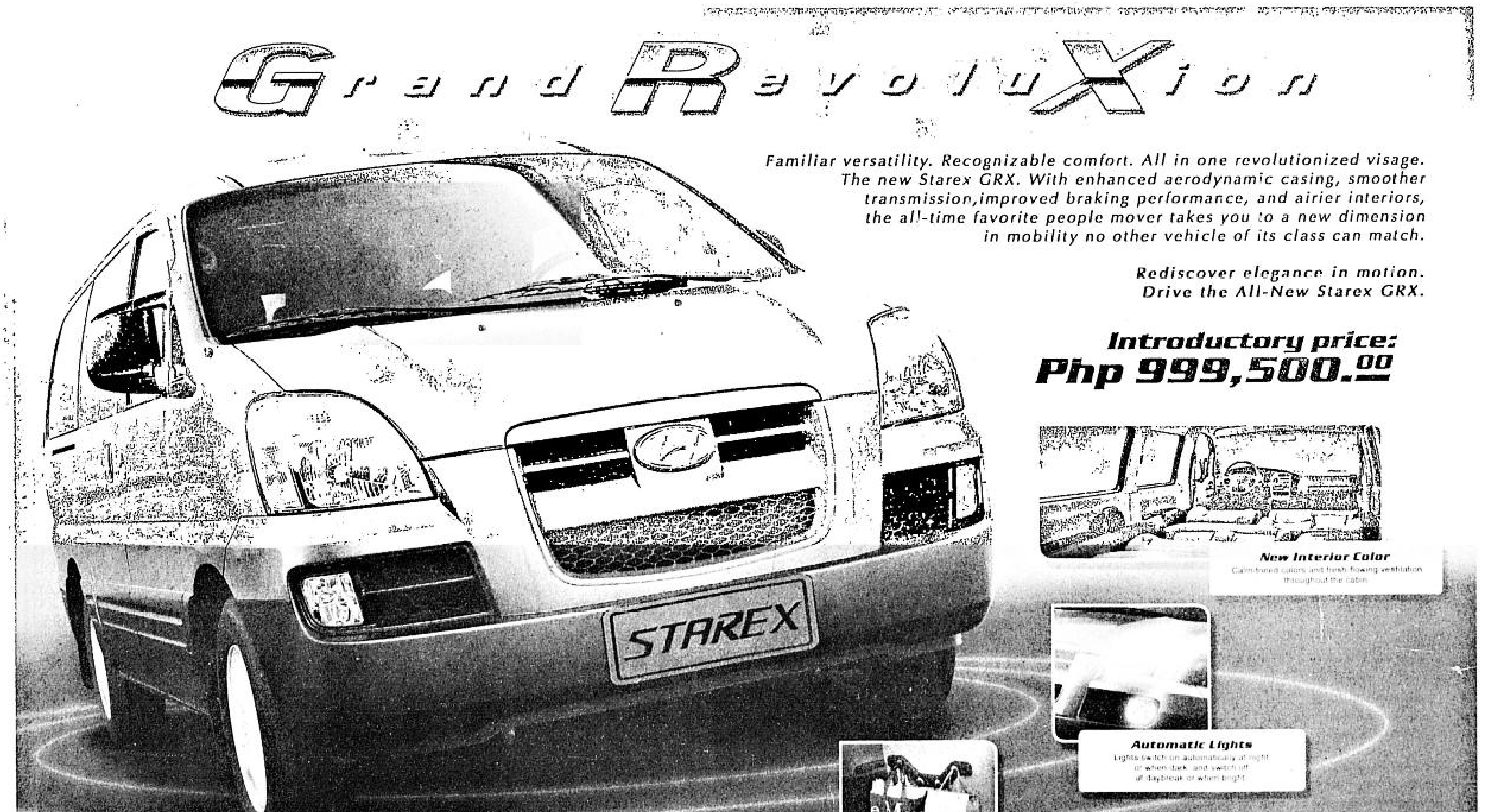
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MOTORING

IT is believed that only two units of the Streamliner still exist today.

Vehicles from early days of automotive engineering

Text and photos
by Charles E. Buban

BACK in the late 1800s, Karl Benz and Gottlieb Daimler did not imagine that the rackety motorized vehicles they independently invented would take the place of the period's already well-established horse-driven carriages.

Also little did they know that their inventions would one day lay the foundations for the motorization of road transport.

"These cars reflect the pioneering spirit of company founders Daimler and Benz in the most impressive way—a pioneering spirit that continues to be both a challenge and an encouragement in automotive engineering at Mercedes-Benz today," said Wolfgang Rolli during the formal opening of The Shining Silver Star Classic Car Exhibition held here in Taipei's National Palace Museum.

6 original classics

Rolli is the director of the world-famous Mercedes-Benz Museum of Stuttgart, Germany that brought in six original classic cars namely: the 1886 Benz Patent Motor Car, the 1907 Mercedes 37/70 hp Simplex, the 1913 Benz 8/20 hp convertible touring car (the snake car), the 1924 Mercedes 28/95 hp, the 1939 Mercedes-Benz 320 Streamliner, and the 1951 "Adenauer" Mercedes-Benz 300.

With the Benz Patent Motor Car, a new chapter in the history of human locomotion had been opened.

"It is the world's first automobile based on a holistic concept where vehicle and engine formed a well-matched, organic entity for the first time," described Rolli.

The Benz Patent Motor Car's drive system was revolutionary: a horizontally installed single-cylinder four-stroke internal combustion engine that can attain a top speed of 15 kph.

While the rest of the five on display are original, the Benz Patent Motor Car on exhibit in Taipei is a replica of the original and in fact, ready to be driven.

Modern automobile

The Mercedes Simplex is known as the forefather of modern automobile and in fact, was copied by many manufacturers in Europe and America in following years.

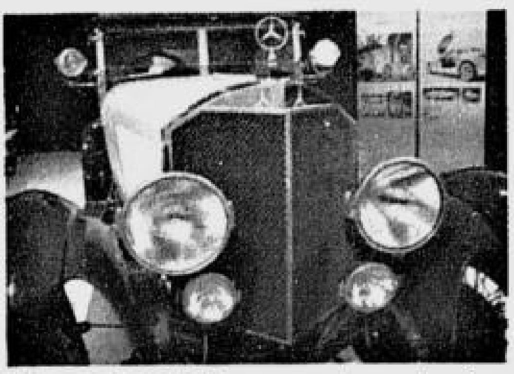
In 1901, Emil Jellinek, a wealthy admirer of Daimler automobiles, persuaded the Daimler company to build a high-performance car. He entered this car in the Nice Week of 1901 under his pseudonym Mercedes, his daughter's name.

"The name stuck and Daimler adopted the Mercedes name for their entire range of private cars," Rolli revealed.

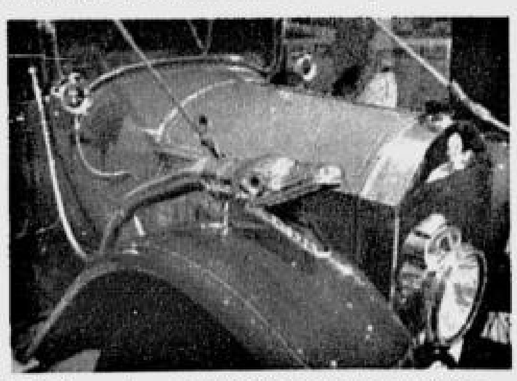
Car for the people

In response to growing competition from the United States, the Benz company decided in 1910 to produce a middle-class automobile, which they described as a car "for the people."

VEHICLES/ C2



MERCEDES 28/95 hp was one in a series of "grand" Mercedes automobiles that ranked among the leading vehicles in its period.



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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0893. Series of 2004

Healing season

FULL TANK

Al Mendoza

NOW that the elections are over, the question foremost in the minds of our nation's captains of the automotive trade is: Will our new leaders and returning leaders be responsive to the legitimate issues of the motoring industry?

One pressing issue that needs to be addressed immediately is the alleged rampant smuggling of luxury cars as well as SUVs at Subic, not to mention other major ports that have been constantly mentioned as alleged favorite entry points of untaxed vehicles.

This is now the plea to our new legislators, if not to the eventual occupant of the seat of power that is Malacañang. The counting of votes will not be over until after some time. But while waiting for their proclamation, will our new leaders please start drafting laws to curb this old disease in our society? If there are laws already in place, our leaders should ensure that they are enforced without fear or favor once they've taken their oaths of office.

* * *

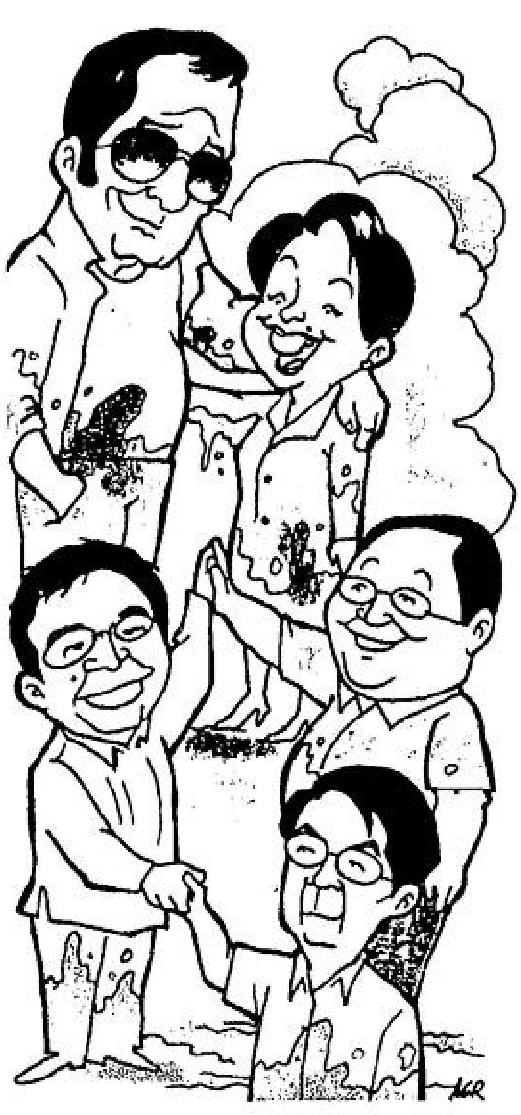
It is also worth reminding our politicians that the season of healing is here. With the political exercise over, let's put behind us the past.

Many were hurt with mud hurled their way in the heat of electoral campaigns. But now that the mudslinging is over, it's time to forgive and forget. The real statesman will be known when the smoke of battle has cleared.

To begin with, the winners should invite all to join them in reconstructing whatever bridges of unity that might have been destroyed during the campaign period. To the losers, be a good sport and be the first to extend the hand of peace and reconciliation.

Only by accepting the will of the people, the rule of the majority, can we advance amid the troubles that beset our country today.

* * *



ISUZU DAY. Congratulations to Isuzu Makati for its staging of the "Family Day" recently through the efforts of D. Edgard Cabangon of Gencars Inc. While the kids had a fun-filled day with parlor games and other kiddie stuff, mom and dad test-drove Isuzu vehicles like the Crosswind AUV and the D-Max pickup. Said Ken Takashima, Isuzu vice president for sales-marketing: "Filipino families are closely knit and enjoy activities that enable them to be with each other. From kids to grannies, they love to share fun time together. This prompted IPC to conduct a 2-month event that will surely drive the whole family wild."

* * *

Isuzu's "Family Day" began on April 17 at Eastwood City Walk, Libis, Quezon City.

Already hosting similar events were Isuzu dealerships in Isabela (April 30) and Cebu/Bacolod (May 8). Next to play host are Cagayan de Oro/Pasig (May 15), Davao (May 16), Bulacan/Pampanga (May 22), Cabanatuan/Edsa (May 29), Quezon Avenue/Alabang (June 5), San Pablo/Batangas (June 11), Dagupan/Cavite (June 19) and, Manila/Commonwealth (June 26).

To cap the whole festivities, Isuzu will hold the culminating bash on July 17 at Boomland, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City. Lots of music, fun games, freebies and Isuzu vehicle test-drives await the participants.

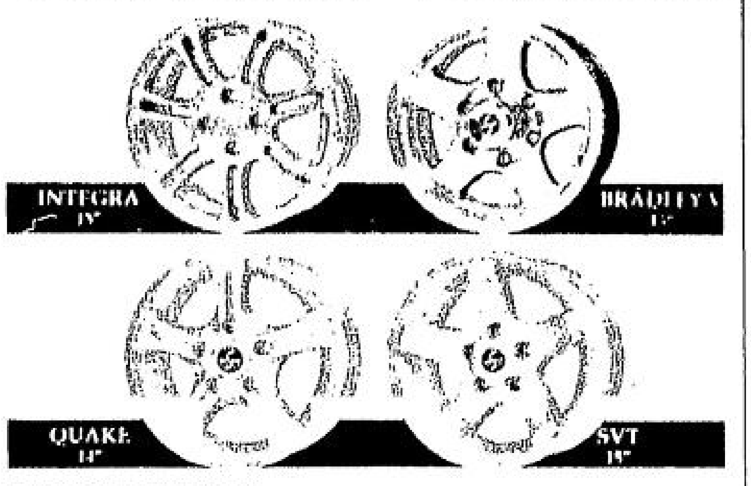
The campaign is in partnership with Caltex Power Diesel & Caltex Delo Sports and co-sponsored by Bevida distilled water, Kleenex, Club Panoly-Boracay, Escondido Resort-Boracay and Snickers. For more details on activity schedules, call the nearest Isuzu dealership or contact Isuzu Philippines' Customer Relations Hotline at 757-2340.

* * *

MODEL PUBLIC SERVANT. Ed Deveza, the LTO chief at Camp Aguinaldo, gets my salute. Informed that an applicant for a new plate number was being given the run-around at his office, he immediately stepped in and produced the plate number in one day. After he was through, he even apologized to the vehicle owner, whom he hasn't even met yet before he got wind of the motorist's predicament. Here's a glass to Mr. Deveza, truly a model public servant worth emulating. It'd be an honor to shake his hand, indeed.

* * *

QUOTE ME. **Oil is what chiefly protects our car engine. So have that oil-change regularly.**



LATEST DESIGNS
Silverwind Alloy Casting Inc., one of the leading manufacturers of after-market alloy wheels ranging for Japanese sedans, AUVs, SUVs and pickup trucks, launches their latest designs that would surely fit your vehicle from 14 to 17 inches.

Toyota posts highest sales in 14 years

TOYOTA Motor Philippines Corp. is the best selling automotive brand in the country last month by registering its highest sales output in 14 years.

Based on the latest figures from the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc. (Campi), Toyota is on top for the fourth straight month this year by selling a total of 2,471 vehicles in April. Its total sales for the year reached 9,932 units registering a growth of 12 percent from last year keeping the company on top of market sales.

Highest sales output

Toyota also registered the highest sales output in the passenger car and commercial vehicle categories achieving a total outstanding market share of 40 percent for April.

Taking second place in market sales for April is Mitsubishi Motors Philippines, with reported sales of 723 units and a market share of 11 percent. Honda Cars Philippines followed closely with 666 units taking 10.8 percent.

On a year-to-date basis, Mitsubishi's 3,908 sales lands on second place to Toyota while Honda Cars Philippines takes the third spot with 3,895 units.

In the passenger car category, Toyota continues to maintain its market leadership with 1,244 units, dominating more than half of the market with almost a 55 percent market share. This figure adds up to Toyota's year-to-date sales of 5,118 units, an 81 percent increase compared to the same period last year.

Honda and Ford followed far behind with April passenger cars sales of 429 and 147 units, respectively.

Winning feat

The exceptional performance of Toyota's passenger car lineup can be traced back to the winning feat of the Vios, Altis and Camry with sales figures more than twice its competitors.

The Vios proves to continue its appeal to the small PC market with registered sales of 547 units, more than twice the sales figure of the Honda City with a meager 202 units. The Altis, on the other hand, is a class of its own with 392 units sold doubling the sales of its top competitor, the Honda Civic with only 178 units.

Likewise, nothing compares to the luxury, style and comfort offered by the Camry in the medium PC category selling 100 units.

Toyota remains in the top position in the commercial vehicle segment last month with sales of 1,277 units and more than 31 percent market share.

Mitsubishi followed with 636 units sold and a 16.3 percent market share while Isuzu placed third with 632 units sold and a market share of 16.2 percent.

Soaring longer with New Shell Better Mileage gasoline

SHELL is flying high with its new Better Mileage formula enhancing its Super Premium, Super Unleaded and Velocity Gasoline product lines. At no extra cost, this new formulation assures motorists of going through long distances much further than ever before.

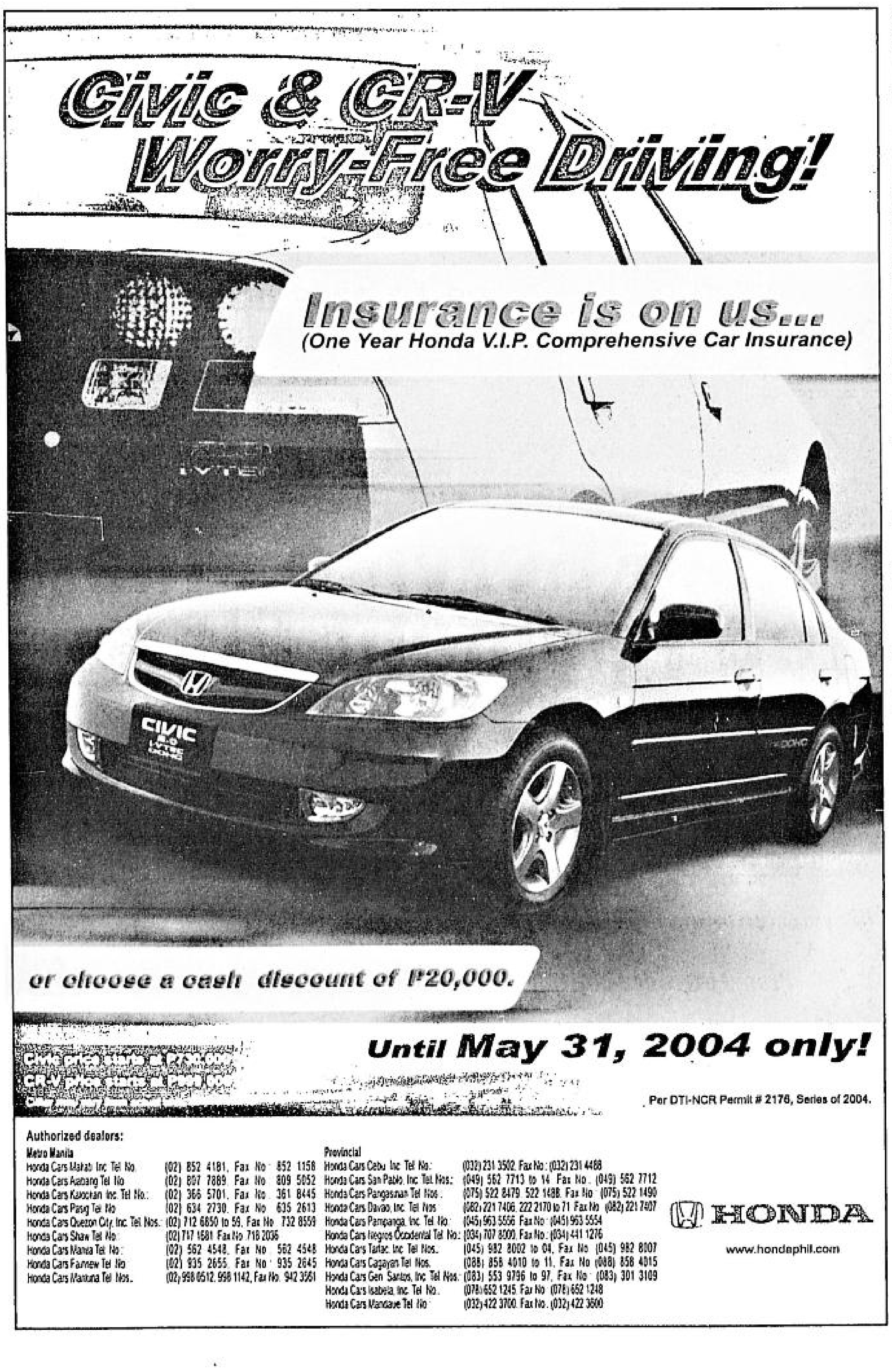
This benefit is aptly symbolized by the frigate bird in Shell's new TVC. Frigate Birds, with a 6-foot wing span and natural power and stamina, can soar for days without stopping. They are a common sight over the Pacific and Indian Oceans as well as the Pacific and Atlantic coasts of the Americas. They fearlessly go on journeys that traverse countless geographical boundaries, exemplifying strength superior among bird species.

Shell's 30-second commercial captures the intensity and endurance of this impressive sky-dweller. The lone frigate bird flies over large, pristine bodies of water, sleekly gliding through foamy crashes and steering itself with a precision that rivals even specially designed modern aircraft.

It singles out an island and gracefully lands on a tree without a hint of weariness or discomfort. The lush island is revealed as one shaped like the Shell icon. The frigate bird has found its destination after a long, nonstop flight.

This proud bird's epic flight dramatically depicts how Shell's New Better Mileage formula brings about much–improved engine efficiency by addressing the needs of every vehicle's fuel supply system.

The new Shell Better Mileage gasoline is now available at all Shell service stations nationwide.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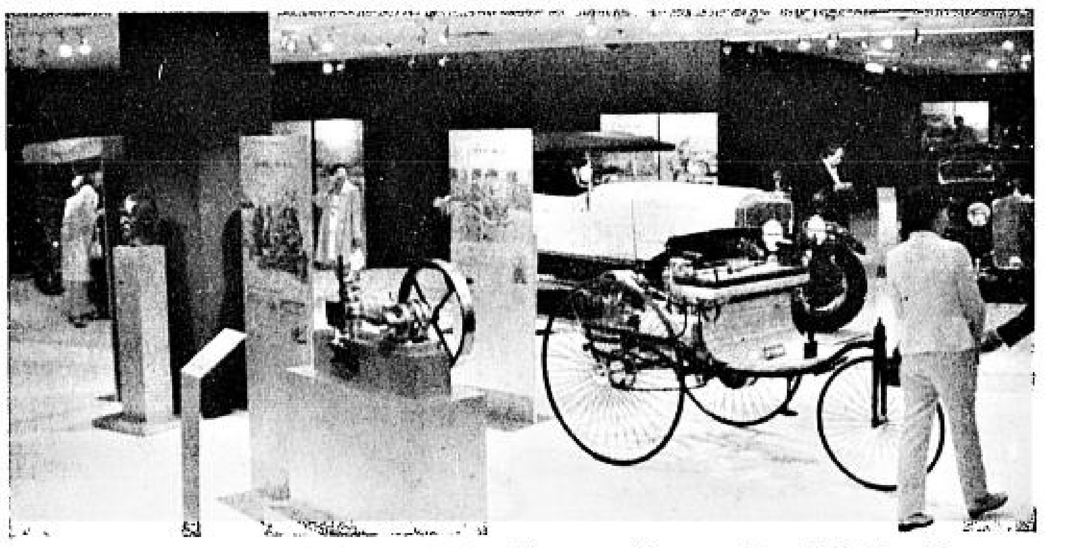


THE TAIPEI exhibition at the National Palace Museum will run until June 27 before it is moved to other countries in the region.

Vehicles from early . . .

From page C1

The result was the Benz 8/20 hp convertible touring car which became famous with its reptilian horn design that soon gave the car its nickname, "snake car."

This was followed later on with the Mercedes 28/95 hp one the first of a series of "grand" Mercedes automobiles that ranked among the leading automobiles during the years before and after World War I.

Said Rolli: "The Mercedes-Benz 320 Streamliner, with its fastback and rear-wheel coverings was one of the first cars with aerodynamically efficient bodywork. This model was individually manufactured in small numbers. It is believed that only two units of this model still exist throughout the world today."

The largest and fastest German produced car, the Mercedes-Benz 300, quickly became a symbol of the German economic miracle.

"German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer insisted on being chauffeured in the 300 for years, which resulted in the car becoming popularly known as the 'Adenauer Mercedes,'" Rolli informed.

First in Asia

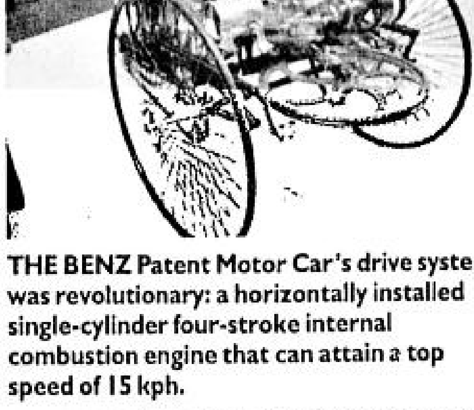
According to Felix Ang, president of CATS Motors, Mercedes-Benz dealer in the Philippines, this is the first time DaimlerChrysler comes to Asia with an exhibition of vehicles from the early days of automotive engineering.

Ang was joined by his counterparts from other countries in Southeast Asia and Mercedes-Benz classic car clubs in the region in welcoming the exhibition in Taipei.

"Although the Philippines was not included among those that will host The Shining Silver Star exhibition in the region, Taiwan (as well as the rest of the other host countries) is a very accessible place where Mercedes-Benz collectors and fanatics in the Philippines may go to and see these historic automobiles up close," Ang suggested.

The exhibition, which will run until June 27, will also be taken to South Korea, Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam later this year.

THE SIMPLEX is the first to carry the Mercedes name.



THE BENZ Patent Motor Car's drive system was revolutionary: a horizontally installed single-cylinder four-stroke internal combustion engine that can attain a top speed of 15 kph.

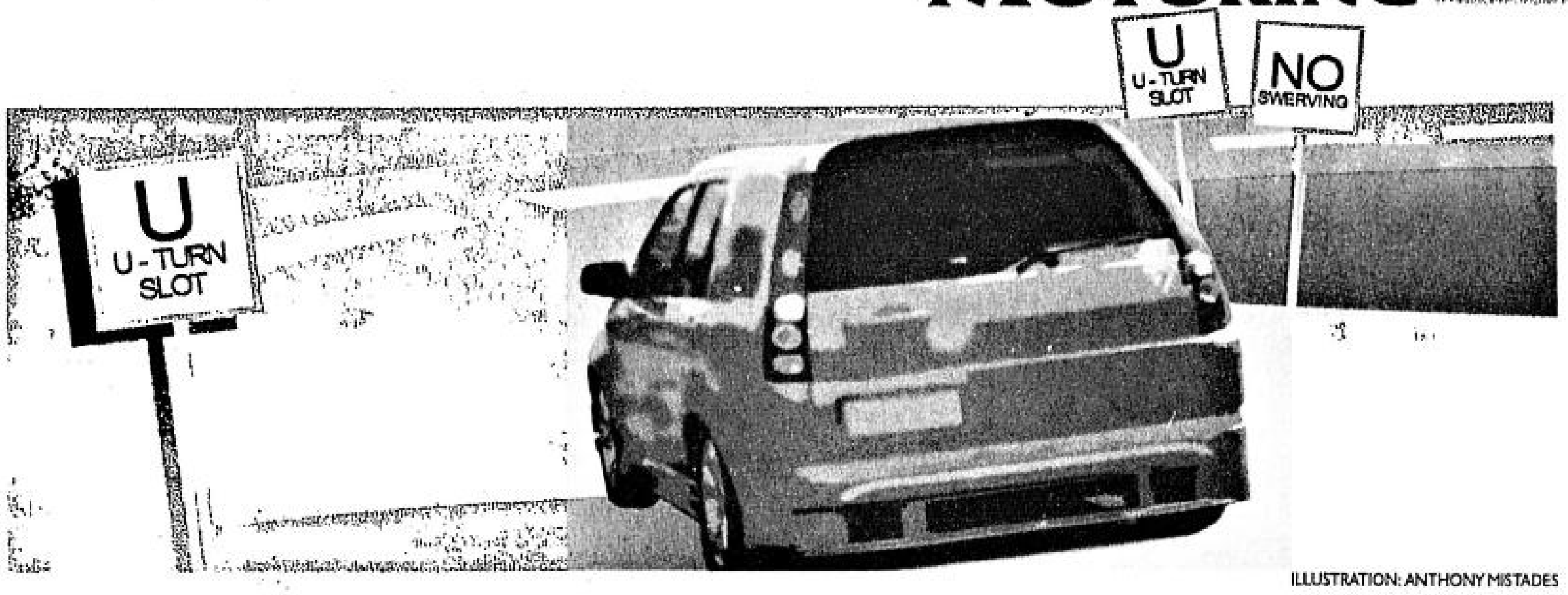


ILLUSTRATION: ANTHONY MISTADES

U-turns and the art of careful swerving

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

THE VERB "swerve" is defined in the dictionary as "to turn aside from a direct course of action or movement." In Metro Manila's traffic lingo, to swerve is to break the law. Motorists who ply the South Luzon Expressway (Slex) are warned by numerous traffic signs before each tollway exit, "No Swerving." On Edsa, the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) has placed road blocks, fences, railings, barriers and what-have-you to prevent motorists from swerving from one lane to the next.

Yet the MMDA encourages, if not abets, swerving by imposing its U-turn scheme on some major roads and intersections. Drivers of both public and private motor vehicles are left with no recourse but to swerve frequently to make their way through a street where the "No Left Turn" rule has been imposed, major intersections with traffic lights have been closed and several island breaks have been converted into one-way "U-turn" slots.

Example

One example is the Roxas Boulevard-Buendia (Sen. Gil Puyat) Avenue intersection. Because of road blocks at the center of the intersection, vehicles on Roxas Boulevard cannot drive straight through this intersection, whether they are headed toward Manila or the other way, toward Baclaran. Thus, if you are driving on Roxas Boulevard heading north toward Manila, you must turn right on Buendia and then swerve to the left to make a U-turn at the third island break in order to come back to the Roxas Boulevard northbound lane.

In doing so, you will be obstructing traffic on Buendia coming from the Senate/GSIS Complex headed toward Taft or Ayala Avenue. If I am a motorist coming from said direction en route to Ayala Avenue via Buendia, I have to stay on the leftmost lane of Buendia when crossing Roxas Boulevard to give way to you as you turn right on Buendia. Then I have to carefully swerve to the right so as not to block your path as you swerve to the left to reach the U-turn slot on your way back to Roxas Boulevard.

Careful

As I proceed on Buendia toward Ayala Avenue, I must carefully swerve to the left as I approach the intersections of F.B. Harrison and Leveriza to avoid traffic turning right on Buendia from those streets. Then I am forced to carefully swerve to the right whenever I approach another U-turn slot or else vehicles swerving into or streaming out of the U-turn slot will cut my path. And so it goes, carefully swerving left and right until finally, after the Taft Avenue, Dominga and Tramo intersections, there is no more island on Buendia and therefore no more island breaks for MMDA to convert into U-turn slots. What a relief!

The same careful swerving strategy is necessary if you are driving on Buendia the other way (from Ayala Avenue toward Roxas Boulevard) as soon as you see a U-turn slot. Otherwise, you will be late for your appointment and/or risk getting your car bumper dented as Buendia is dominated by big buses, delivery trucks and jeepneys. Alertness and skillful timing are essential. After crossing Roxas Boulevard via Buendia, stay on the left to avoid vehicles turning right on Buendia from Roxas, then carefully swerve to the right to avoid them as they swerve to the left to enter the U-turn slot in front of the World Trade Center.

Consultation

Incidentally, Automobile Association Philippines (AAP, formerly Philippine Motor Association), while acknowledging the benefits of the MMDA's U-turn scheme ("maintenance-free, promotes courtesy among motorists by encouraging the alternate merging of vehicles, cost-effective and graft-proof"), says that a scientific study needs to be made of the effectiveness and safety of U-turns. Do U-turns ease the traffic flow problem or do they make it worse? AAP asks.

"There is obviously a need to make U-turn slots and the barriers leading to them more visible either through additional lighting and/or luminous paint," AAP stated in a position paper published in its bi-monthly "AAP Drive" tabloid. "There is a need for consultation among various road users, private motorists, PUV drivers, pedestrians and handicapped people—on the U-turns. Obviously, those who invented this innovative scheme did not think of old people and the handicapped when they unilaterally voided the pedestrian lanes and made Edsa an all-go highway."

Greater good

Although AAP recognizes that political will is needed to solve many of our country's problems, the national auto club points out that "political will, without consultation, is plain arrogance and smacks of dictatorship. We don't need mindless dictators. We need strong-willed public servants who will always think of the greater good of the greater number of people. And we need public servants who will ensure that the least powerful members of society—the children, the sick, the elderly and the handicapped—are protected and served."

* * *

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: Be the kind of friend you'd want.

* * *

(E-mail comments to asevilla@inquirer.com.ph)

Kymco Cup set May 15

S.C. Kymco Pilipinas will hold on Saturday its 4th Annual Kymco Cup with an exciting road course circuit race around the Filinvest grounds.

This year's race will undoubtedly be exhilarating and challenging as Kymco riders and motorcycle enthusiasts vie for top honors in the Top Boy 100, Dink 150, Activ 110 and Spike 125 race classes.

At stake are cash prizes and trophies for the first five finishers in each class and the prestige of being recognized as one of the fastest Kymco riders in the country.

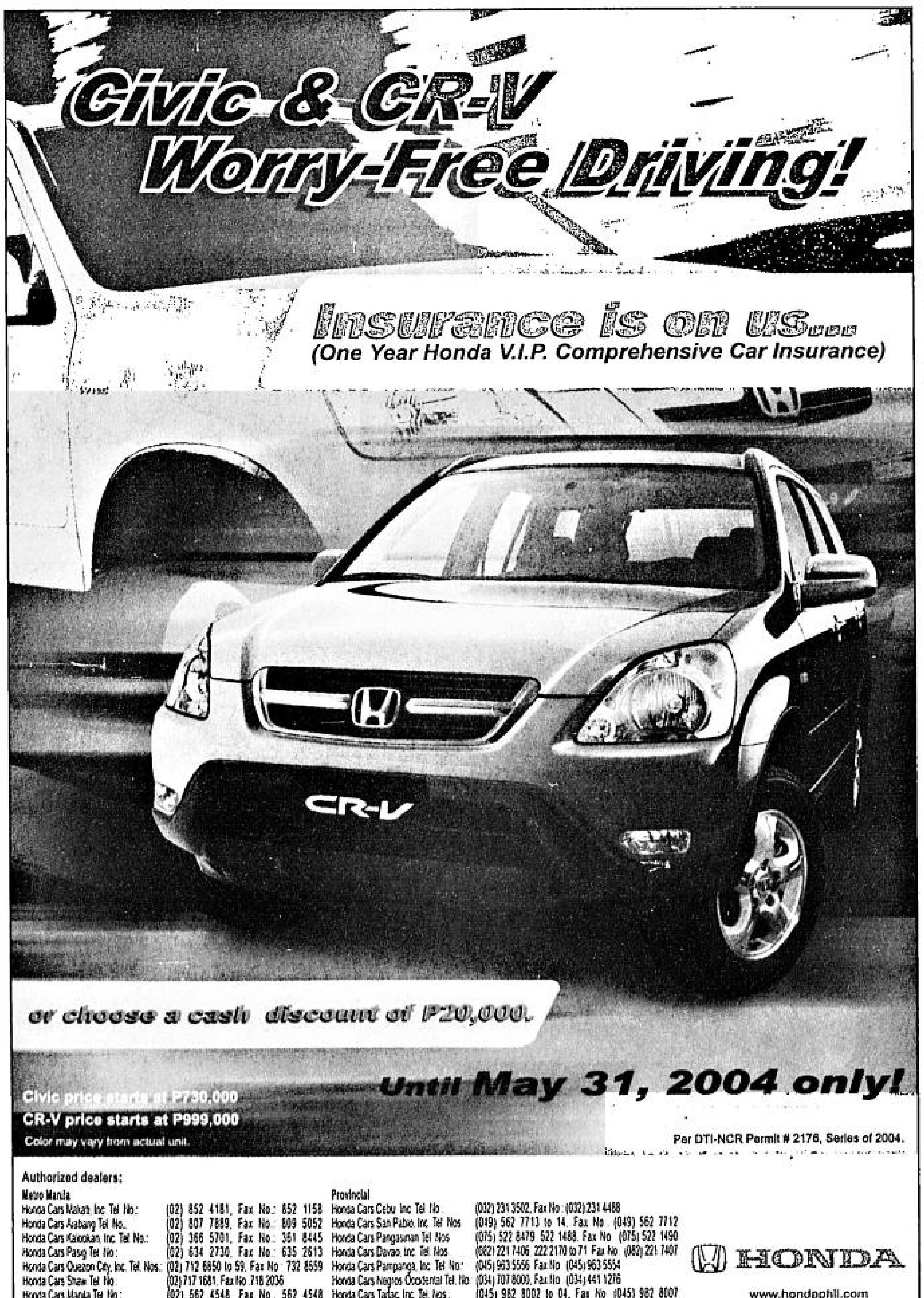
Riders of other motorcycle brands are also enticed to join so they can have a chance to show their racing skills in the Open Expert class while enthusiasts of scooters with displacements of 70cc can vie for honors in the Open Scooter class.

Media personalities are also slated to run against each other in a circuit race against the clock.

S.C. Kymco Pilipinas proclaimed that they are conducting the race in thanksgiving for the support of Kymco riders and owners nationwide.

Registration will start at 8 a.m. at the race venue in the Filinvest complex.

Races will begin at 10 a.m. Kymco racers can register for free while racers of other brands will be charged a minimal registration fee of P500.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Until May 31, 2004 only!

Civic price starts at P730,000
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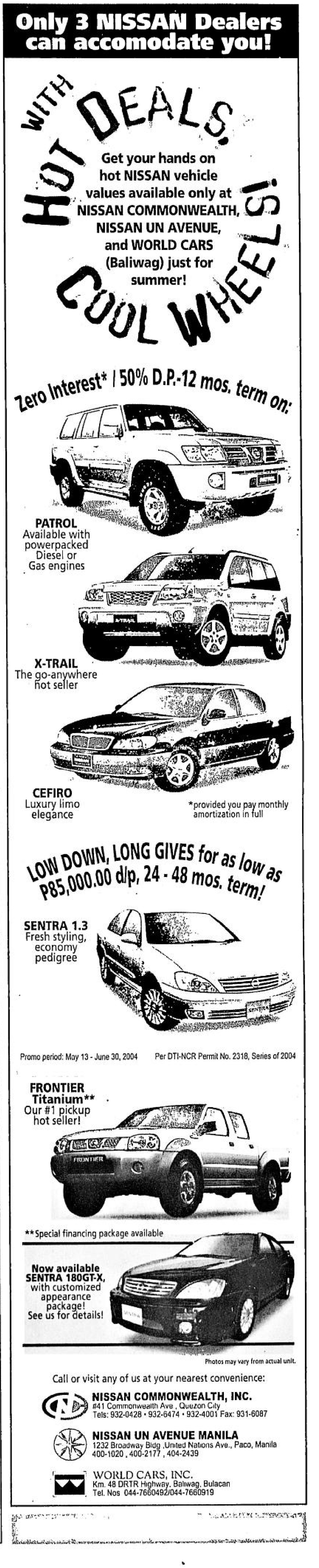
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Mitsubishi unveils a new game face

SPORTING different facia similar to the new 2004 Lancer, the 2004 Adventure will surely meet everyone's expectation from a family vehicle.

By Charles E. Buban

THE 2004 LANCER was given a new and more aggressive personality.

IT was during the 2001 Tokyo Motor Show when Mitsubishi Motors Corp. unveiled a new design concept that expresses the company's commitment to bring attractive and appealing products.

This new design identity was developed by Olivier Boulay, formerly of DaimlerChrysler, who now heads MMC's Car Design Division.

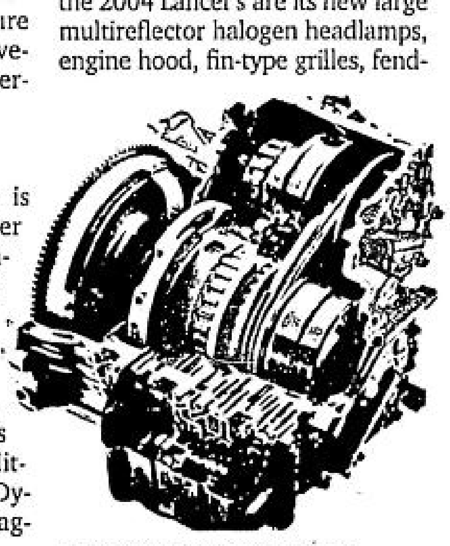
The company wanted to have an identity that is not pseudo-European or American by nature and will give each Mitsubishi vehicle model its own distinct personality.

Very evident

This new design concept is very evident in the 2004 Lancer and the 2004 Adventure unveiled recently by Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corp. at the Le Pavilion in Pasay City.

"Although they belong to a different class, both share an expressive front mask, which is centered on a prominent Mitsubishi logo," described Froy Dytianquin, MMPC's senior manager for marketing services.

Other exterior improvements of the 2004 Lancer's are its new large multireflector halogen headlamps, engine hood, fin-type grilles, fenders, duck-tailed trunk lid, new rear combination lamps and bumpers.



CONTINUOUSLY variable transmission (CVT)

1.6 SOHC engine

All 2004 Lancer models are powered by a 1.6 SOHC 16-valve mated to an Invecs-III Continuously Variable Transmission (CVT) with 6-speed Sportronic for the MX and GLS variants.

Banking on its aggressive styling and new features inside, MMPC believes the 2004 Lancer will catapult its way to the top of its category.

The 2004 Lancer is available in three variants: a manual GLX (P698,000), GLS CVT (P758,000), and MX CVT (P838,000).

Shared design concept

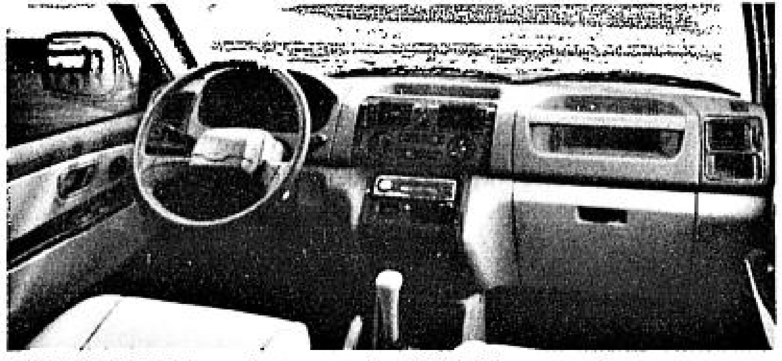
Even the 2004 Adventure sports a shared design concept and now has a bigger multireflector halogen headlamps, fin-type grille design, impact absorbing polypropylene bumpers, white fender side markers and new wheel design.

Available in seven variants, the Adventure is priced starting at P690,000 (M/T, gas engine GLX) with the top variant, the automatic Grand Sport, priced at P970,000.

Dytianquin said MMC's customers around the world has increasingly desired for products whose message can be perceived at a glance.

"Which is why building a distinctive brand and establishing a clear-design identity was the company's immediate task," he added.

THE SPORTRONIC gear feature of the 2004 Lancer



WITH SUV-LIKE appointments, the 2004 Adventure features titanium control panel, grab handle, four-spoke steering wheel and beige leather seats with fabric combination.

ELEGANTLY designed, the latest Lancer features a four-spoke leather wrapped steering wheel and woodgrain paneling.

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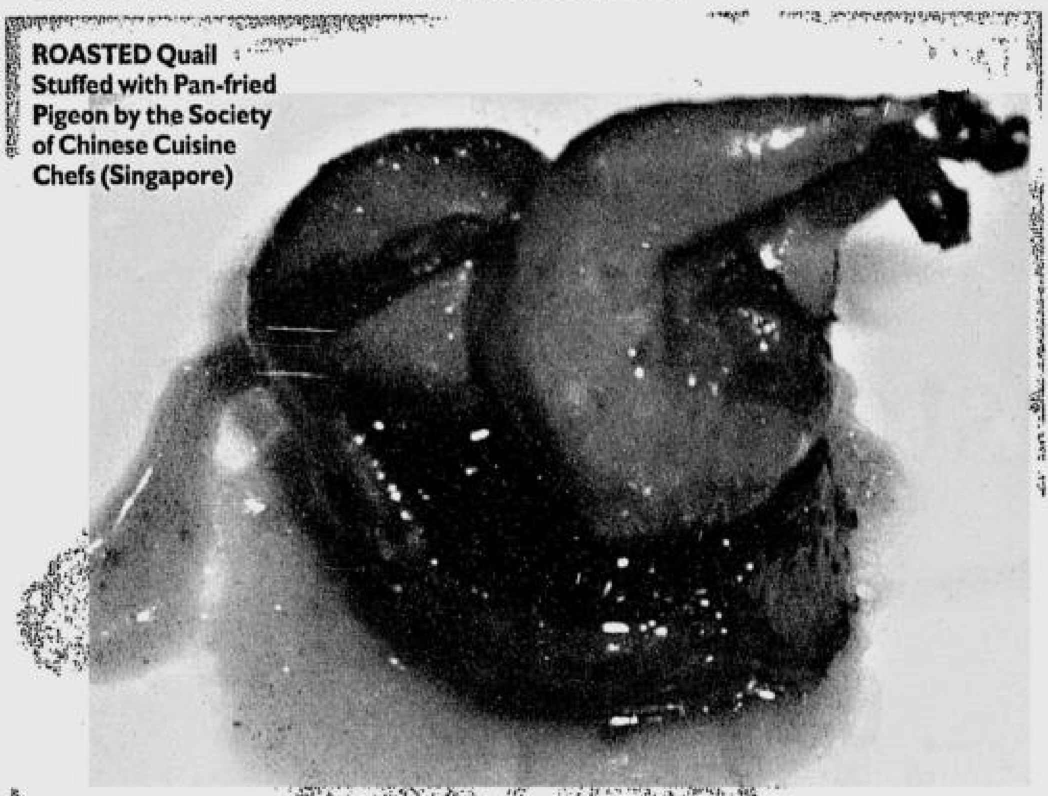
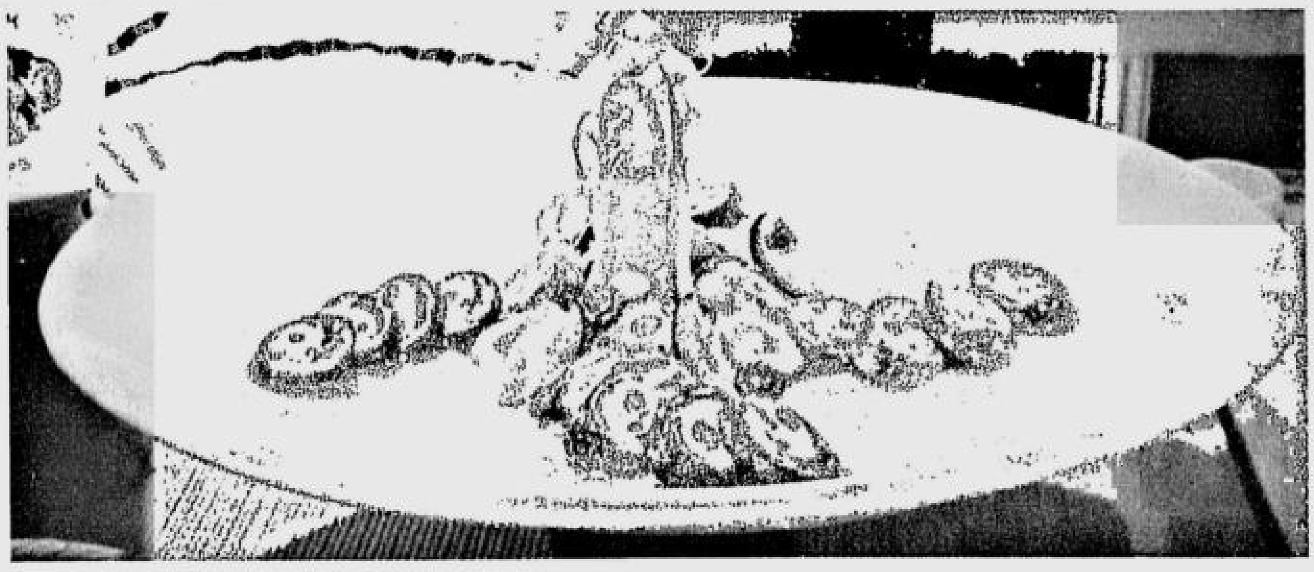
Feast on fiesta fare /D3

LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso



ROASTED Quail Stuffed with Pan-fried Pigeon by the Society of Chinese Cuisine Chefs (Singapore)



TERRINE with Pumpkin and Black Sesame presented by Lee Hee Kun (South Korea) at the 3-Course Ethnic Asian Menu contest

Game of gourmet mastery

Singapore's Food&HotelAsia 2004 showcases the stuff top chefs are made of through various competitions

Text and photos
by Rowena C. Burgos

"A GOOD banquet menu must taste good, have visual appeal and feature an appropriate combination of food," said Huang Ching Biao, chief judge at the first Chinese gourmet culinary skills competition in the Food&HotelAsia (FHA) 2004 held recently at the Singapore Expo.

"It should be creative. Most importantly, it must be safe for consumption and nutritionally balanced," he added.

Chef Huang is the managing

GAME/D2

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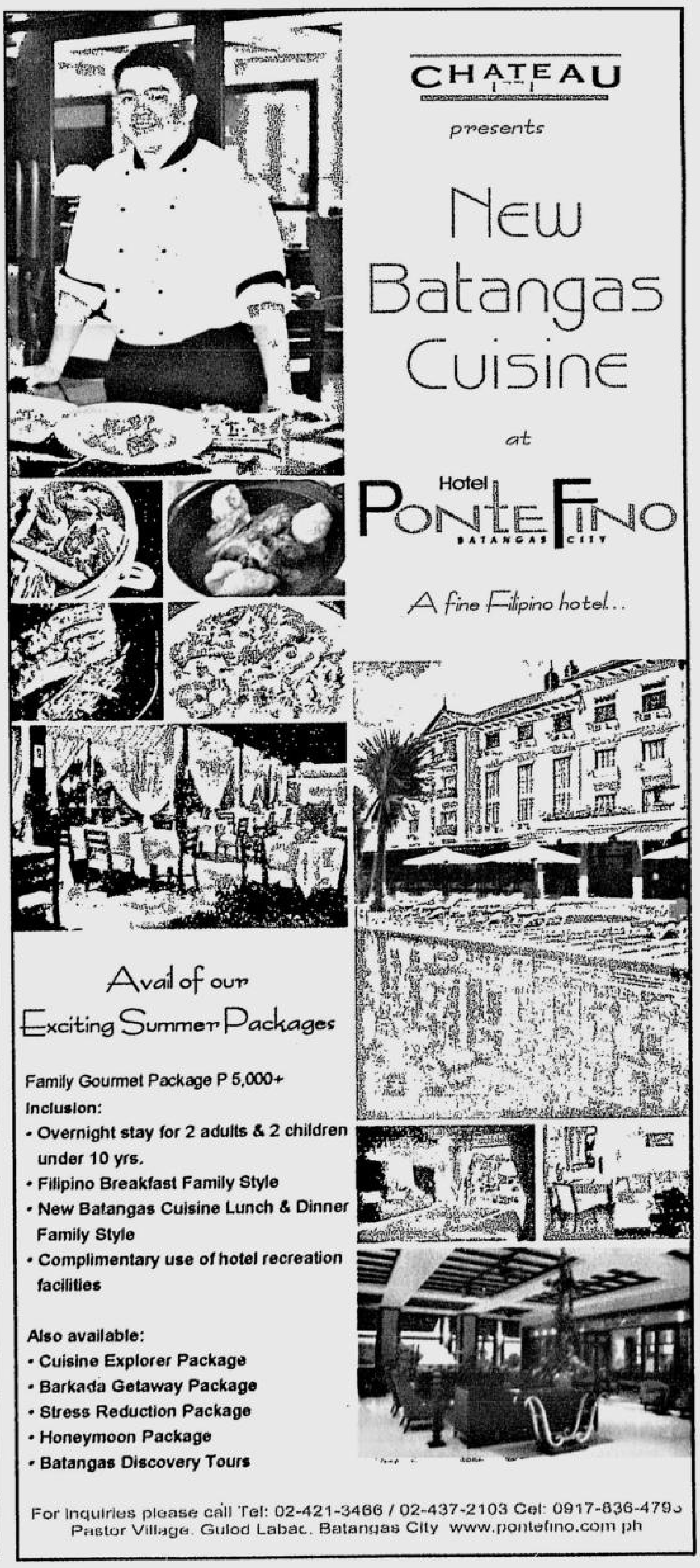

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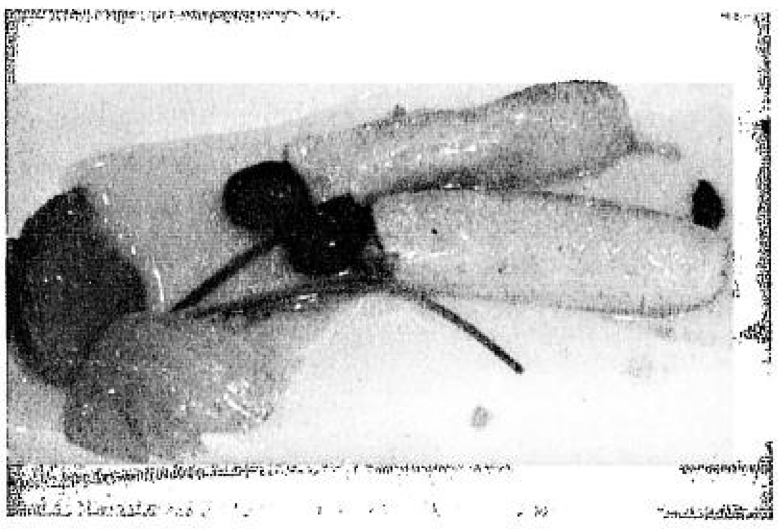
HANDMADE Scallop Noodles served with Crab Claw by the Society of Chinese Cuisine Chefs (Singapore)

FRIED Lobster Balls by the Society of Chinese Cuisine Chefs (Singapore)



JADE Bamboo Shoots Stuffed with Chinese Delights by the Society of Chinese Cuisine Chefs (Singapore)

Game of gourmet mastery

From page D1

director and proprietor of Marina Seafood Village and training instructor and principal consultant of the Restaurant Association of Singapore. He used to be the executive chef of the Chinese kitchen sections of the Mandarin Oriental Hotel group for 15 years.

Known as the Imperial Challenge, the newly launched event showcased the stuff top chefs in Chinese cuisine were made of.

It featured eight teams from Asia—four from Singapore, two from Taiwan and one each from Korea and Malaysia—and each prepared an eight-course Chinese banquet menu.

The Taiwan Visitors Association beat the Chinese Chefs Association (KL) Malaysia, Society of Chinese Cuisine Chefs, Hong Kong F&B Association, Hou Yow Cooks Association and The Regent from Singapore, Korea Overseas Chinese Cooks Association and Taiwan's Chinese F&B Association to win the Imperial Challenge trophy.

Winning entries from the Taiwan Visitors Association included Mango Fish, Fu Yong Prawns, Duck Mee Sua and Coffee Chicken Fillet. Chen Jia Mo (Taiwan) bagged the Best Chef Award.

The menu of the Society of Chinese Cuisine Chefs (Singapore), which media groups from the Philippines, Korea and Singapore savored, consisted of Wealthy Four Combination Platter, Three Treasures Boiled Soup, Steam Fried Red Garoupa Rolls, Roasted Quail Stuffed with Pan-fried Pigeon, Fried Lobster Balls, Jade Bamboo Shoots Stuffed with Chinese Delights, Handmade Scallop Noodles served with Crab Cla and Hashima served with Chrysanthemum Puff.

The Imperial Challenge judges were all chefs, including Biao (Singapore), Shi Zheng Liang (Sichuan, China), Li Yao Yun (Shanghai, China), Yap Yook Wah (Malaysia), Fok Weng Tin (Singapore), Sam Leong (Singapore) and Liao Qing Chi (Singapore).

Healthy Chinese cuisine

For many people, Chinese cuisine is rich, high in calories and cholesterol. In the Imperial Challenge, however, the dishes were judged not only for their aesthetics but their nutritional value as well.

The event was hosted by the Restaurant Association of Singapore (RAS) and supported by the World Association of Chinese Cuisine and China Cuisine Association.

According to Lee Tong Soon, RAS president, the standard of culinary excellence in Chinese cooking across Asia has risen due to an increasing interest in Chinese culture and cuisine.

"With the growing popularity of Chinese cuisine, the Imperial Challenge will further raise the bar in the Asian culinary scene," he said.

This competition for professional chefs of Chinese banquet cuisine will be held every four years in the FHA, one of Asia's high-profile international food and hospitality events.

THE TAIWAN Visitors Association, grand prize winner in FHA's 1st Imperial Challenge 2004

THE PHILIPPINE Pavilion at the Singapore Expo featured 12 companies and their flagship products.

HERRS Chips, distributed by Lifestyle Essences International Inc..

International marketplace

With a record number of 37,012 trade visitors from 99 countries gathered at the Singapore Expo from April 20-24, FHA2004 provided an international marketplace for food and hospitality stakeholders throughout Asia.

Thirty-six percent of the visitors were from overseas, which included 12 exhibiting companies from the Philippines such as Seachamp International, Monde Philippines, Moondish, La Pacita Biscuits, Carica Herbal Health Products, Inc., Lifestyle Essences International Inc., RFM Corp., Shemberg Marketing Corp., Dealo Industries Inc., Mega Sardines and 1st Chöice Food Corp.

"FHA has helped launch Filipino products into the mainstream. Four years ago, we were able to carve a niche for the Singaporean tertiary level market, meaning small groceries. We were able to sell Filipino products, which compete against the mainstream Singaporean products at good prices," said Tomas B. Medina, president and CEO of Branded Food and Ingredients Enterprises, who headed the Philippine delegation.

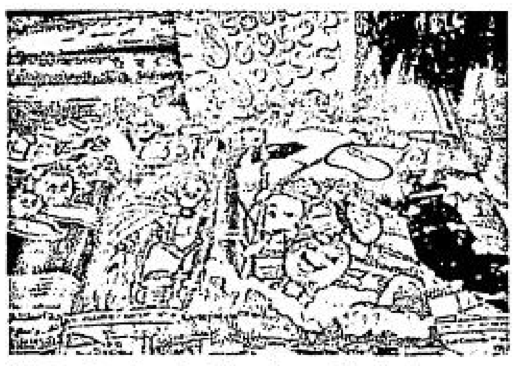
"The vast showcase of exhibits and the overwhelming response from visitors bear testament to the potential of Asia's food, beverage and hospitality industries," said Ben Wong, project director (lifestyle events), Singapore Exhibition Services Pte Ltd.

The trade exhibition comprised seven specialized shows—FoodAsia, Wine&SpiritsAsia, HotelAsia, HospitalityTechnology, HospitalityStyleAsia, BakeryAsia, as well as the FHA Culinary and Imperial Challenge, with each show catering specifically to the needs of individual sectors.

"We are very proud of the comprehensive showcase at FHA2004 and the quality of buyers that visited the exhibition," Wong added. "Judging from the success of FHA2004, we are confident that FHA2006 will flourish with an even stronger showcase to answer the needs of Asia's burgeoning food and hospitality industry."

E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph

STEAM Fried Red Garoupa Rolls by the Society of Chinese Cuisine Chefs (Singapore)



JELO n' Ice Pop by Shemberg Marketing Corporation, one of the Philippine participants in FHA 2004

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BLUSKIES biscuits, a Philippine-made product by 1st Choice Food Corporation

New dishes on the menu

DINING OUT

SANBASHI Japanese Restaurant has added new items to its menu: Asari nabe, clam soup garnished with straw mushrooms and pickled vegetables, Renkon (lotus) tempura, Kobe beef amiyaki and Kobe beef teppanyaki. Sanbashi now also serves umeshu or Japanese plum wine, a popular liqueur in many Japanese homes for its relaxing effect and health benefits. Sanbashi Japanese Restaurant is on the 2/F of the Pantalan Seafood Restaurant complex at the old Army and Navy Club; South Rd. (T. M. Kalaw Ave.) cor. Parade St., Rizal Park, Ermita, Manila. Call 4006757, 5250514 or telefax 4007439.

SIZZLER offers summer treats like buco loco halo-halo, sweet banana, ube, maja maize, sweet boat, coco pandan gulaman, mango slices, leche flan, fruit salad boat, fresh fruit boat, pakwan slices and fresh lychees. Sizzler is located at Greenhills Shopping Center and 2/L, Glorietta I, Ayala Center, Makati.

TEMPLE Bar marks its first anniversary with new dishes like Salmon Teriyaki with Soba Noodles and Seafood and Miso Ramen. Temple Bar is at Greenbelt 2.

CASA ARMAS at the Podium in Ortigas presents Tapas Fest. Tapas will be available 5-7 p.m. for only P295. A glass of Altozano Tempranillo wine is free. Featured are Mejillones al Horno, Calamares Ala Romana, Champiñon ala Ajillo and Boquerones, Croquetas de Pollo, Croquetas de Jamon, Pinchito de Sardina and Tortilla de Patata. Call 6873370.

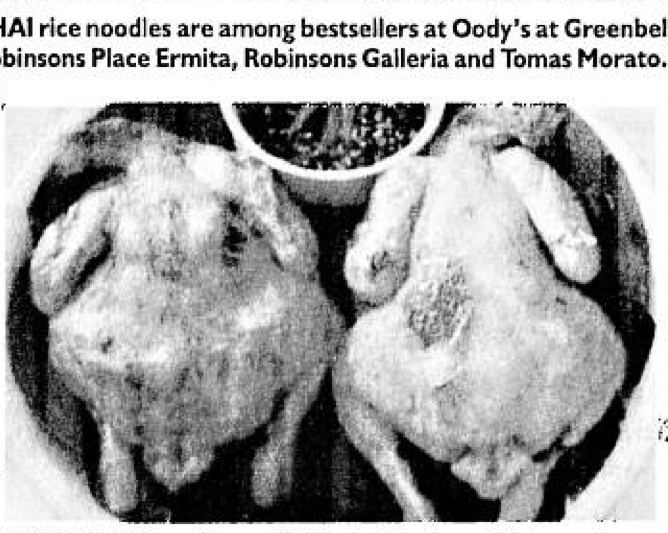
BLUE BACON and Green Eggs has added Euro-Asian dishes to its menu. Selections include Mixed Satay (Chicken, Prawn, Beef and Pork) with Steamed Pandan Rice, Chili Pasta with Prawns and Lime Sauce, Japanese Risotto. Blue Bacon and Green Eggs is at 27 Lantana cor. Boston Sts., Cubao, QC. Call 7268054/ 7212717.

JUMBO Japs presents new Japanese fare like Tempura teri-maki, Crunchy Cali, Inari Sushi, Oyster Sashimi, Wasabi Butter Tuna, Kani Tempura, Sizzling Fresh Teppanyaki, Salmon Teriyaki and Walnut Fudge Brownie. Jumbo Japs is located at 38 Jupiter cor. Planet St., Makati (8996147) and 2/L, Pedro Gil wing, Robinsons Place, Manila (5250499).

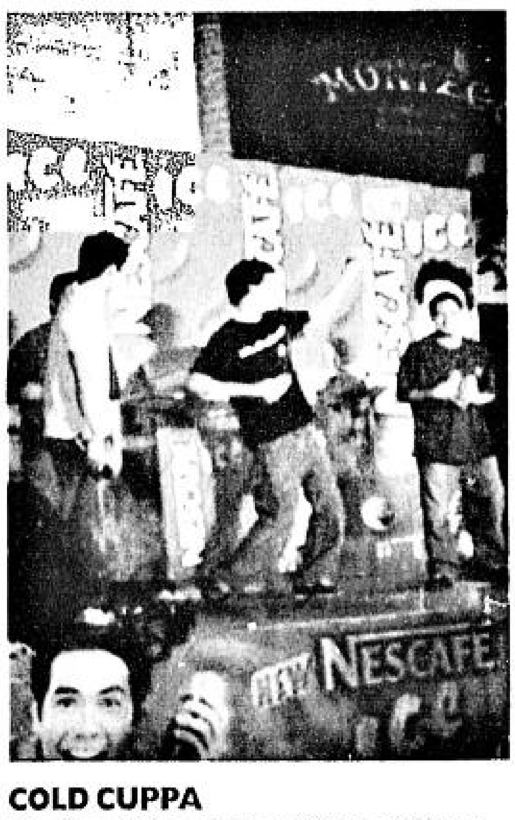
ITALIANNI'S Restaurant introduces salads such as Fritata Verde, Romano Crisps and Mango Salad, Sicilian Chicken and Grape Salad. Italianni's is located at Greenbelt 2, Glorietta IV, Alabang Town Center and SM City Bicutan.

MARIO'S Kitchenpresents all-time beef favorites like Beef Stroganoff, Salpicado, Solomillo, Salpicon de Mar y Tierra, Bistek Filipino, Kalderetang Baka and Kare-kare. Call 6335995/ 3020195 or visit its branches at Robinsons Galleria and Robinsons Place, Ermita.

THAI rice noodles are among bestsellers at Oody's at Greenbelt 3, Robinsons Place Ermita, Robinsons Galleria and Tomas Morato.



PINAUPONG Manok is available at Cabalen, with branches at West Ave., Katipunan, Sta. Lucia, SM Megamall, SM North Edsa, SM City Manila, Glorietta 3 and Robinson's Ermita. Call 4219220 for catering.



COLD CUPPA

The Nescafé Ice commercial has got Pinoys doing "Da Move" and enjoying creamy cold coffee in the convenience of their own homes. But the good news is Nescafé Ice is now available in your favorite restaurants, bars and malls around the metropolis. The easy-to-prepare coffee drink comes in Nescafé Ice Original and Nescafé Ice Vanilla flavors. Launched recently at Eastwood City, Libis, coffee lovers witnessed the "Da Move" dance contest and joined in the bar-raids.

Fiesta dishes for festive May

By Dorothy MJ Ferreria
Contributor

THE MERRY month of May is fiesta season in the Philippines. People often go home to the provinces to renew ties with relatives and friends surrounded by food, food and more food.

Here are fiesta recipes for those occasions such as *pastel de lengua* and a vegetable *lumpia* presented in a different way.

Pastel de Lengua

1 pc ox tongue (*dila ng baka*)
¼ c rock salt
½ c vinegar
¼ c rum
¼ c soy sauce
1 tbsp well-pounded garlic
½ c coarsely chopped onions
1 tbsp dried rosemary leaves
freshly ground black pepper to taste
water to cover tongue
¼ c olive oil or corn oil
¼ c butter
1 tbsp well-pounded garlic
½ c coarsely chopped onions
½ c coarsely chopped tomatoes
1 tsp dried rosemary leaves
1 c canned button mushrooms, sliced
1 c carrots, cubed
1 c potatoes, cubed
strained broth + water to total 3 c liquid
2 tsp fine salt
½ tsp coarsely ground black pepper
2 tbsp Worcestershire sauce
½ c pitted black/green olives
1 c cubed cheddar cheese
140 g can Vienna sausage, sliced into 1/2-inch pieces
1 can *chorizo de* Bilbao, sliced diagonally
½ c frozen green peas
3 tbsp all-purpose flour dispersed in ¼ c water

Crust:
3 c sifted all-purpose flour
1 tsp fine salt
½ c cold butter
½ c cold water
1 egg, beaten

Rub the ox tongue with vinegar and salt. Let stand for about 15 minutes. Boil water in a stockpot. As soon as the water boils, drop the tongue into the pot and wait for it to turn white. Remove the tongue and scrape off the tough outer covering.

Half fill the stockpot with water. Place over high heat and allow to boil. Add the tongue and allow to boil for 5 minutes. Drain. Repeat the process three times.

Transfer the tongue to a clean stockpot. Add rum, soy sauce, garlic, onions, rosemary leaves and pepper to taste. Pour enough water to cover the tongue. Place over high heat and allow to boil. Simmer for 3-4 hours or until the tongue is fork tender. Strain the stock and reserve for later use. Cut the tongue into cubes.

In a large wok heat together the oil and the butter. Add the garlic, onions, tomatoes and rosemary leaves. Sauté until the vegetables are wilted. Add the mushrooms, carrots, potatoes, strained broth and water, salt and pepper. Allow to boil, and then simmer until the carrots and the potatoes are half done. Add the rest of the ingredients and the tongue and simmer until the sauce has somewhat thickened. Transfer to a Pyrex dish. Set aside.

To prepare the crust, combine the flour and the salt in a bowl. Cut in the butter until evenly distributed. Add the cold water gradually until the mixture holds together. Roll out into a rectangle between sheets of baking paper.

Cover the Pyrex dish with the rolled out crust. Prick several times with the tines of a fork. Bake at 375°F for 15 minutes. Brush the surface with beaten egg and bake for 5-10 minutes more or until a nice golden color is achieved.

Lumpiang Hubad in a Crispy Bed of Noodles

¼ c corn oil
¼ c well-pounded garlic
½ c chopped onions
250 g pork shoulder (*kasim*) sliced into strips
1 c water
2 tbsp oyster sauce
1 tsp rock salt
1 tsp coarsely ground black pepper
1 c carrots, sliced into strips
1 c sweet potatoes (*kamote*) sliced into strips
1 c potatoes sliced into strips or skinned canned *garbanzos*
2 c string beans sliced diagonally or *chicharo*
2 c shredded cabbage
1 c spring onions, cut into 2-inch strips
3 pcs firm tofu (*tokwa*), fried and sliced into strips

Sauce:
1 c dark brown sugar
2 tbsp soy sauce
2 tbsp oyster sauce
2 c water
¼ c cornstarch dispersed in ½ c water

Assembly:
Fried rice noodles (*bihon*)
Fried garlic
Prawns, boiled and peeled
Wansoy

In a large wok sauté the garlic and onions in corn oil until the onions are limp. Add the pork strips and continue to cook until the pork turns white. Pour in half of the water and cook the pork until tender. Add more water if necessary. Season with oyster sauce, salt and pepper.

Add the carrots and continue to cook, stirring continuously for five minutes. Then add the sweet potatoes and potatoes/*garbanzos* and continue to stir-fry for five minutes more or until almost tender. Then add the green

FIESTA/ D4

	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner
MONDAY	French toast with hotcake syrup or fruit jam Skinless longganiza Hot or cold coffee/ hot or cold chocolate Papaya with cottage cheese topping	Chicken *tinola* Rice *Minatamis na kamote con sago*	Beefsteak with onion rings Boiled asparagus or green beans with butter sauce Rice Leche flan
TUESDAY	*Daing na bangus* Fried eggs Garlic rice Coffee or iced tea Bananas	Clam soup Vegetable chopsuey Rice Fried bananas ala mode	*Pancit canton* Fried chicken wings *Maja mais*
WEDNESDAY	Cereal and milk Assorted breads Tuna sandwich filling/Cheese pimiento sandwich filling Coffee or carrot juice	Tossed greens with vinaigrette and crispy bacon Beef morcon Rice Watermelon	Chicken and pork *adobo* with pineapple chunks Rice Ripe mango with *sago* and cream
THURSDAY	Chicken *arroz caldo* Hot or iced tea Fresh fruit platter	*Lumpiang hubad* in a crispy bed of noodles Fried *tilapia* Rice *Mais con hielo*	Crab omelet *Adobong sitaw* Rice *Buko* sherbet
FRIDAY	*Tocino* Scrambled eggs Rice Coffee or chocolate Pineapple wedges	*Sinampalukang manok* Rice Fresh fruit platter	Pork menudo Rice Sweetened garbanzos
SATURDAY	Assorted suman Hot or cold chocolate Hot or cold coffee Ripe mangoes	Cream of mushroom soup Pastel de *lengua* Rice Brazo de Mercedes	*Rellenong bangus* *Lumpiang ubod* Rice Fresh fruit platter
SUNDAY	Waffles or hotcake Crispy bacon Coffee, chocolate or iced tea Cantaloupe (melon) with cottage cheese	*Kare-kare* from scratch Grilled fish Rice *Buko pandan* salad	*Sinigang na isda sa miso* Rice Cassava *bibingka*

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Per DTI-NCR Permit # A2-267, Series of 2004

[illegible]

Cable company's anti-fraud squad goes after illegal connections

THE CONSUMER

Marietta Velasco Giron

THE PROBLEM of illegal cable TV installation is worse than we thought. A letter-writer said it had been going on since 2000 and, in spite of efforts by combined anti-fraud forces to stop the illegal operation, it was still a major problem of the cable TV industry.

Not surprisingly, the very people involved in the operation are said to be trained technical men who used to be connected with the cable companies and who get access to records of subscribers. They know, for example, which accounts have been disconnected or whose cable lines can be tapped for illegal connection.

And we suspect that they are responsible for blurring cable TV reception that leave subscribers so disgusted they eventually decide to cancel their subscription and transfer to another cable company. That's when illegal installers step in with an offer of instant installation at a one-time fee ranging from P500 to P3,500, depending on the customer's capacity to pay.

We just found out that SkyCable has its own anti-fraud team that has been investigating reports of illegal installations. The team has conducted raids with the support of government anti-fraud teams that include members of the Crime Investigation and Detection Group, among others.

Here is what we learned from Alfredo A. Go of SkyCable's anti-fraud team:

He says illegal cable TV installers are not wearing company uniforms. They also offer installation for a one-time payment which is not receipted.

According to Go, SkyCable's installers carry the official contract and payment receipt that has four copies in different colors. Legitimate installers also wear identification tags that attest to their having been fully trained at the Cable Telecommunication Training Institute of Sky Cable. The tags have their pictures, full names and signatures.

Go urged the public to report suspected illegal connections to telephone number 746-7299 loc. 7216; or send e-mail to ago@skycable.com.

Hazardous

Illegal cable TV connection is risky, not only because the connection lacks a safety grounding system that should protect the lines especially during strong lightning and heavy rains.

Go also warned that the substandard materials used by illegal installers posed serious hazards to viewers. He explained that most of the cables were recycled from disconnected wires with open lines. When hit by lightning, a current surcharge could occur damaging the television set by destroying the radio frequency tuner. This could cause electrocution, particularly in flooded areas.

More cable TV woes

Our item last week about illegal cable TV connection drew a little more than the usual number of letters we receive from readers. They include inquiries on the better service provider in town, complaints about programming, and one report about door-to-door offer of instant connection.

Here are two interesting letters:

A Malate resident who lost recently her cable TV reception wrote that last Sunday, a guy rang her doorbell and offered instant cable TV connection. When she said no, the man rudely turned his back on her and moved next door to offer her neighbors the same service.

The letter writer wondered how he found out that she had terminated the services of a cable TV company because of its snail-paced service and an apathetic customer care frontliner.

She wrote, "My neighbors snapped at the offer. It was too good to resist considering the instant connection (as soon as they accepted the offer the guy got to work and they had TV reception a few minutes later) and the one-time fee asked by the installer. But how this fellow knew that our cable TV service was disconnected is something to think about. He was not even wearing a company uniform."

R. Acabado of hitme64@yahoo.com complained about the utter disregard of a cable company of program schedule, particularly in its movie channel. He wrote: "It was announced for one week that the film 'The Hunted' starring Tommy Lee (Jones) and Benicio del Toro was to be premiered last night at 9 p.m.

"I eagerly awaited the screening since I hadn't seen the movie. What was shown, however, was a different film though with the same title, but the story line was different, and the stars were Christopher Lambert and John Love. This film was already shown in another movie channel. "What was worse, when I called up customer service, the one who answered replied that the cable company had no control over what was being shown."

We agree with the letter writer that the local cable TV company has no business advertising a movie if it has no control over the schedule. As the subscriber wrote, "Now I see why many other subscribers are switching to other cable companies."

E-mail the author at mgiron@i-manila.com.ph

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Fiesta dishes. . .

From page D3

beans/*chicharo*, cabbage, spring onions and *tokwa*. Continue to cook until the beans are done.

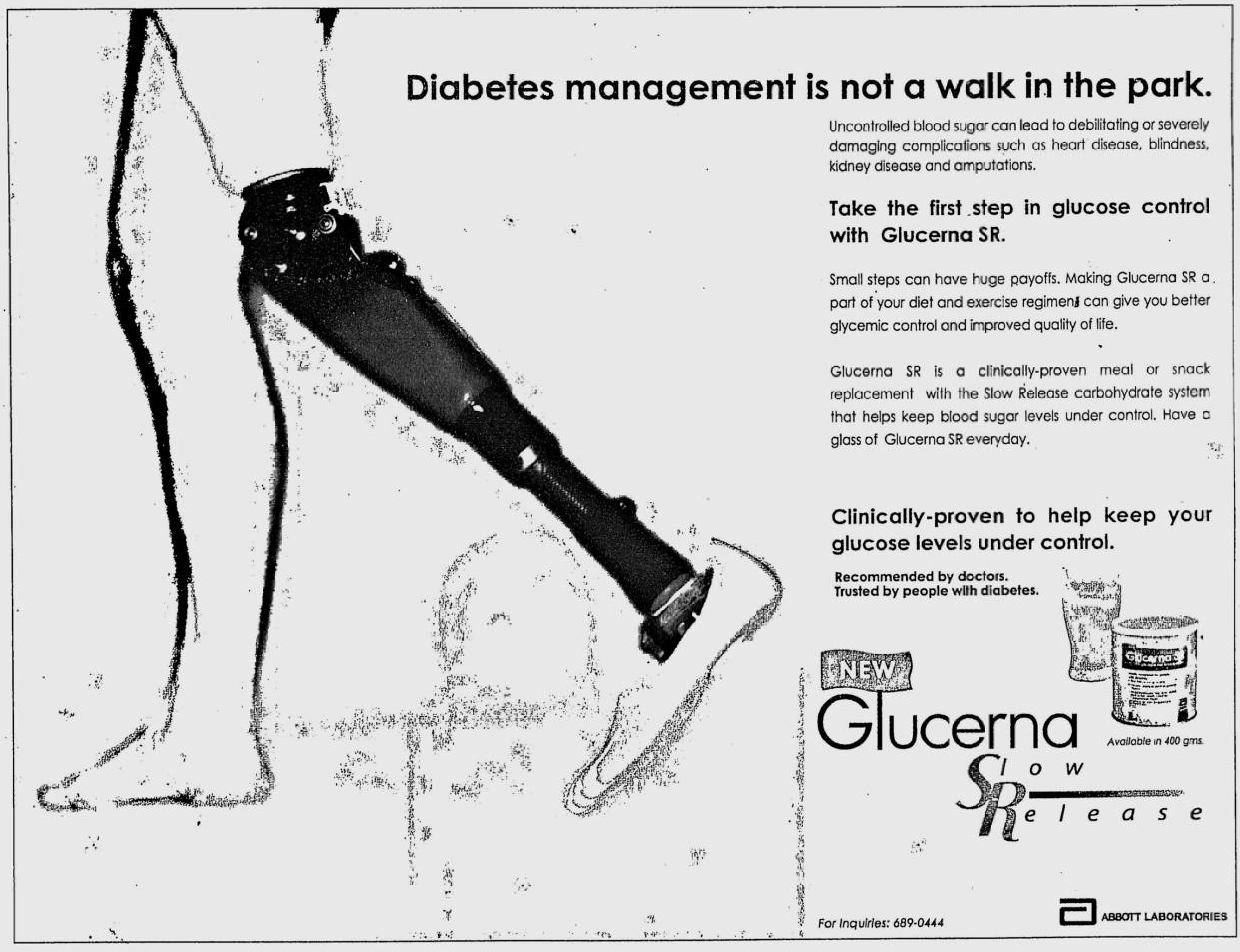
Remove from heat and prepare the sauce.

For the sauce, combine the following ingredients in a saucepan—brown sugar, soy sauce, oyster sauce and 2 c water. In a small bowl disperse the cornstarch in ½ c water. Place the saucepan over medium heat and allow to boil.

As soon as the mixture boils add the cornstarch solution in thin streams and continue to cook until thick. The recipe may be doubled or tripled depending on need and preference.

To assemble, make a bed of fried *bihon* in a serving platter. Top with an adequate amount of vegetables. Then top with boiled and peeled prawns, fried garlic and wansoy. Serve the sauce separately.

Dorothy MJ Ferreria offers cooking, baking and cake decorating classes at Dorothy's Cooking School in Quezon City, at the Julius Maggi Kitchen in Makati and in key provincial cities. Call 7217735 or e-mail dorothyferreria@skyinet.net



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